

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment and Highways Cabinet Board

16 February 2017

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport

D. W. Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Ward Affected: Neath North

Proposed Taxi Rank – Orchard Street, Neath

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the objections received following the advertisement of the proposals as indicated in Appendix A.

Executive Summary

2. One letter with a petition attached with 20 signatures was received in respect of the proposal. The report outlines the objection and the recommendations for the scheme.

Background

3. In November/December 2016, the proposals were advertised and at the same time a consultation exercise was undertaken to all properties directly affected by the scheme; see Appendix B.

Financial Implications

4. The work will be funded by the Regeneration Capital Programme.

Equality Impact Assessment

5. No requirement for an Equality Impact Assessment.

Workforce Impact

6. Not applicable

Legal Impact

7. The scheme has been advertised for a 21 day period.

Risk Management

8. There are no service risk management issues associated with this scheme. However, the demolition of the former multi-storey car park in Neath, Wilkinsons Store and Tesco Extra is dependent on the relocation of the taxis to facilitate the next phase of the development.

Consultation Outcome

9. This item has been subject to external consultation.

List of consultees:-

Councillor A Lockyer

Councillor M Protheroe

Residents/Businesses' affected by the scheme

10. As part of the consultation exercise a letter drop was undertaken to all residents/businesses within the immediate vicinity of the proposals. During the consultation process one letter (Appendix C) was received in respect of the proposals.

11. Letter 1- Appendix C

The letter refers to shoppers that arrive early to get a space in the existing limited waiting bay. However, early shoppers with mobility issues who have a Blue Badge are able to park within the pedestrian area up until 10.30am.

The existing limited waiting bay can hold up to seven vehicles. However, there is ample free on-street parking in Alfred Street, St. David's Street and the other end of Orchard Street, which can accommodate these vehicles, as well as serve the upper area of town.

Other issues raised in the letter are not directly relevant to the proposed Traffic Order.

Recommendation(s)

12. It is recommended that:

The objection is overruled and the objector informed accordingly, the scheme be implemented as previously advertised.

Reason for Proposed Decision

13. The scheme is necessary to provide an alternative taxi rank at the appropriate location due to the demolition works planned which will affect the existing rank on Wind Street, Neath.

Implementation of Decision

14. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-days call-in period.

Appendices

15. Appendix A – Consultation Plan
Appendix B – Consultation Letter
Appendix C – Objection Letter from a business

List of Background Papers

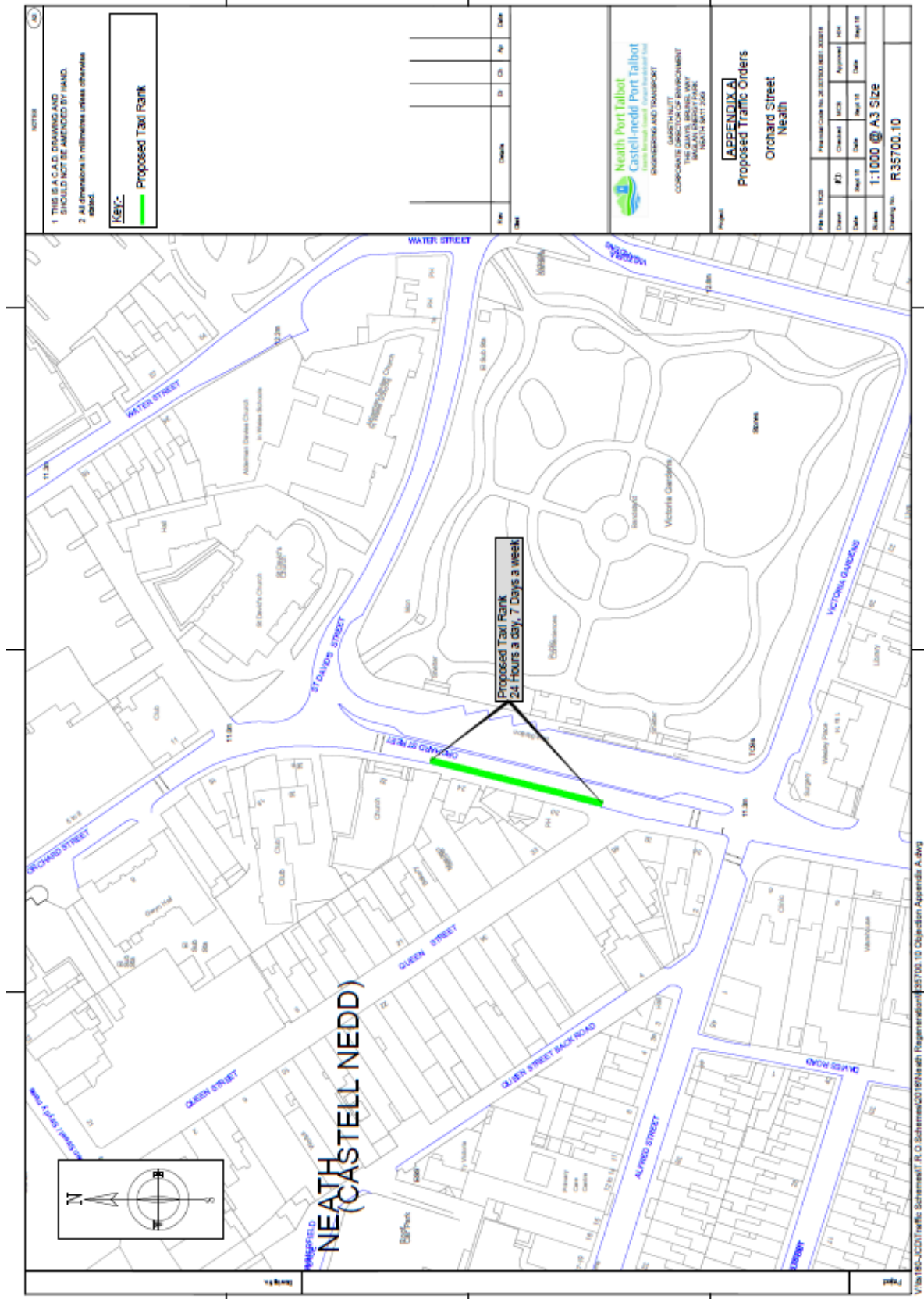
16. TR25

Officer Contact

Mr J C Davies – Senior Engineer Traffic
Tel. No. 01639 686479
email: j.davies15@npt.gov.uk

Mr M Brumby – Project Manager Highways
Tel. No. 01639 686013
email: m.brumby@npt.gov.uk

Appendix A



File: I:\S:\CCIT\Traffic Schemes\T.F.O. Schemes\2015\Neath Regeneration\35700.10 Objection Appendix A.dwg

Appendix B



8th November 2016
01639 686479
j.davies15@npt.gov.uk

Date Dyddiad
Direct Line Rhif Ffôn
email ebost

Mr. J.C. Davies
2616951/979070/1
TR25/JCD/AMH

Contact Cyswilt
Your Ref Eich Cyf
Our Ref Ein Cyf

The Occupier

APPENDIX B

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: - Proposed No Stopping Except Taxis, Orchard Street, Neath

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council intend to advertise the above scheme. A copy of the plan is attached.

A copy of the proposed Order, Statement of Reasons and an appropriate plan may be inspected during normal working hours at the main reception desks in the Civic Centres at Neath, Port Talbot and The Quays, Baglan.

Any objections / support or comments should be forwarded as soon as possible in writing to the address below and must be received no later than 2nd December 2016.

Yours faithfully


For HEAD OF ENGINEERING & TRANSPORT

Enc.

Environment
Yr Amgylchedd

www.npt.gov.uk

David W Griffiths
Head of Engineering & Transport
The Quays, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park,
Neath SA11 2GG
Tel: 01639 686868 Fax: 01639 686100

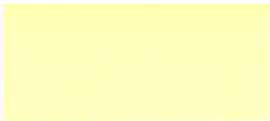
The Council welcomes
correspondence in English or Welsh

David W Griffiths
Pennaeth Peirianeg a Chludiant
Y Ceiau, Ffordd Brunel, Parc Ynni Baglan,
Castell-nedd SA11 2GG
Ffôn 01639 686868 Ffacs 01639 686100

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth
yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg



Appendix C



APPENDIX C

16th NEATH ROAD TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL DIRECTORATE OF ENVIRONMENT
REC'D 22 NOV 2016
ACK'D
ANS'D P937310

Interested Parties :

Re Proposed No Stopping Except Taxis, Orchard Street Neath.

Orchard Street parking area referred to in your recent proposal, is a "high demand" parking area. evidenced by the fact ~~the fact~~ that it is generally fully occupied during shopping hours. People with limited mobility find this parking area particularly useful given it's proximity to the upper area of the town, and are often the "early shoppers", securing a parking slot before town opens.

Outside normal business hours the parking area is still popular, with parking spots being at a premium until late night, as will be clearly seen on your CCTV footage. similarly on a Sunday this parking area is occupied by the congregation of the local chapel who are typically elderly where again there are mobility issues.

Taxis currently use this area as principally a prearranged pick up, and set down point, the current arrangements appearing to work smoothly. Rarely are black cabs seen looking for opportunist fares in this area indicating little or no natural demand. This is not surprising given the proximity of the main bus stop! This is further supported by ad hoc conversations with taxi drivers who inform us that the main activity of the daytime taxi service is to transport people of limited mobility relatively short distances (sub one mile). Given that these people would have difficulty walking the extra distance to orchard street, it would seem unlikely that the taxi service would support your proposal.

In your statement of reasons it is stated that "the scheme is necessary to provide an area for taxi's in the interest of road safety". Given traffic volumes are significantly higher on the proposed site on orchard than they are on the existing rank, road width is limited, and HGV's are a common sight, it would seem that this proposal runs counter to reason stated above. I would be interested in your view!

It is therefore difficult to understand why you believe that a FULL TIME (24/7) taxi rank at this point in the town, which would eliminate all parking in this area, both night and day would be of benefit to the people of Neath, in fact in view of the foregoing, your proposals can be seen to be of net disadvantage, and as a consequence of this many people have signed a petition OPPOSING your proposed change of use.

Extending the discussion, in a recent act of car park pay meter vandalism in Cardigan, which gave rise to temporary free parking, it was observed that trading activity levels within the town soared, illustrating that barriers to accessing the town, be they physical or financial, will have a negative impact on trading levels.

Given the current difficult trading conditions within the town of Neath as is evidenced by recent closures (Store 21 etc), would you (named decision maker for the purpose of correspondence) presuming you favour improved trading in the town, please explain why you believe that making the town less accessible will improve trading activity and prosperity within the town? There are many Jobs within the town which depend on your decisions.

Current interested parties:

- M R H Barber* — The Canterbury Arms
- Dipwell* — Orchard Cafe Neath Ltd
- Trenberth Opticians
- 46 Coffee shop
- Tattoo Parlour 40 Queen Street
- Orchard Place Chapel

We would be indebted to you if your replies were forwarded to the above.

[Handwritten signature]

We, the undersigned, strongly object to the proposed change at Orchard Street by Neath Port Talbot Council, from restricted parking, to full time taxi rank (seven days a week 24 hours a day).

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE	DATE
HELEN PRICE	98 CANNONWAY	H.P.	16-11-16
STEPHEN THOMAS	" " "	S.T.	16-11-16
John Price	42 Westernmoor	J.P.	18/11/16
M. Price	" "	M.P.	16/11/16
J. Rees	44 Westernmoor	J. Rees	16/11/16
A. Jones	5 Macaulay Dr.	A.J.	16 Nov 16
M. Jones	" "	M. Jones	16 Nov 16
M. Wozniak	15, Pine Grove	M. Wozniak	16/11/16
E. Coleman	33 Beacon Way	E. Coleman	16/11/16
C. Walters	7 Western Rd	C. Walters	16/11/16
D. Smith	2 Smith	D. Smith	16/11/16
A. Coleman	50, St. Ewells Way	A. Coleman	16/11/16
E. Morgan	15, PINE GROVE	E. Morgan	16/11/16
S. MIZEN	124 FAIRLAND	S. Mizén	16-11-16
R. MIZEN	11 11 11	R. Mizén	16-11-16
S. MIZEN	14 RHODRA BRYAN	S. Mizén	16-11-16
M. ROBERTS	20 ORCHARD ST	M. Roberts	16-11-16
M. Key	8, Grove Lane	M. Key	17/11/16
C. Price	20, Delwysdare	C. Price	17/11/16
K. Cassin	100 Meadow Rd	K. Cassin	17/11/16