

Area West Committee – 18th July 2007

6. Proposed Relocation of Crewkerne Market (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

To seek authority under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 to apply for Planning Permission for the relocation of Crewkerne market.

Recommendation

That a first resolution be passed seeking planning permission under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 for this proposal.

Background

The Crewkerne market is held weekly on every Wednesday, its current location being in part of the public car park in South Street. This car park will shortly be the site of the new Waitrose supermarket, which will displace the market. Alternative sites have, therefore, been investigated.

Report Detail

To be viable the market needs to be located near the areas of main pedestrian movement; given that the owners of Falkland Square will not allow that to be used for the market the choice of alternative sites narrowed to two, the George Shopping Centre and Victoria Hall. The area of land available at the Shopping Centre would not be sufficient for the anticipated number of stalls to operate without some obstruction to shop doorways and possibly footways, so the only realistic alternative is the Victoria Hall in Market Square.

The area of paving outside the Hall together with the short-stay parking spaces will be sufficient for the stalls to operate (see map attached at page 2). It is also intended to apply for a road closure for the section of the A356, which runs adjacent to the Hall, this will provide a safe area for pedestrian movement and more room for the stalls if required. Concerns were raised in the consultation regarding pedestrian access to the proposed market site, given that some patrons will have to cross busy roads. There are two pedestrian refuges on the A30 road and on the North Street side, and as traffic speeds are generally slow at this point anyway these should provide sufficient protection for people crossing to use the market.

The businesses in the locality of Market Square have been informally consulted about the proposal, and their reaction is generally favourable. There is a bus stop in the Square, which will be affected by any road closure and the companies involved will also be consulted.

Financial Implications

New road closure signs will need to be purchased at a cost of approximately £300, which can be met from existing budgets. The parking spaces are free, so there will be no loss of parking revenue.

Background Papers: Scheme File.