
MOBILE BREAST SCREENING UNIT IN MILL HALL CAR PARK

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider a request from the NHS Trust, South Essex Breast Screening Service to site a Mobile Screening Unit in the Mill Hall Car Park, Rayleigh for 10 months.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The South Essex Breast Screening Service is due to screen women living in Rayleigh, Rawreth, Eastwood and Hullbridge later this year and, once again, permission is being sought for the Mobile Screening Unit to be located in Mill Hall Car Park.
- 2.2 They anticipate commencing screening in July 2004 and expect to finish in April 2005. This is for a longer period than previously envisaged, due to the increased population to be covered and the fact that more x-rays are taken of each woman at each visit. This service is carried out every three years and permission has previously been granted by the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) under delegated powers.
- 2.3 On past occasions the Unit has been sited to the rear of the Mill Hall building, resulting in the loss of two parking bays. However, due to the improvements made to the car park after the demolition of the Rayleigh Sports & Social Club building in 2001, the Screening Service found that access to that area was extremely difficult. The unit requires a Three-Phase power supply and must therefore be located close to an existing electricity supply.
- 2.4 Their proposal is to site the unit on the eastern side of the car park adjacent to the electricity sub-station, which would result in the loss of six parking bays. Alternatively, the rear of Mill Hall location could be used if a lamp column is removed and re-positioned within the car park. The NHS Trust would be willing to pay for this work.
- 2.5 The Council has previously offered two parking permits (free of charge) to the Radiographers while working in the unit and the request for this concession is included in their application.
- 2.6 The Breast Screening Service has not actively investigated alternative sites in the area as they prefer to use locations that are tried, tested, and familiar to their patients.

3 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Since the last visit of the Mobile Unit in 2001, parking trends in the District, and particularly in Rayleigh, have shown a steady increase, both in revenue and the number of vehicles using the car parks. The results of the latest Car Parks Customer Survey (to be presented at a future meeting of this Committee) show that the greatest concern of motorists is that there is insufficient parking spaces in the town centres. The capacity of the car parks in the Rayleigh area during the day is at a critical level with many motorists complaining of being unable to find a space.
- 3.2 With the above concerns in mind, Members may wish to consider either to refuse the request or to allow access and charge for the resulting loss of revenue.
- 3.3 The loss of revenue to the Council for the two sites mentioned based on the daily 'yield per bay' would be:
- Sub-Station site with 6 bays for unit and 2 season tickets for Radiographers - Total - £4033.
 - Rear of Mill Hall site with 2 bays for unit and 2 season tickets for Radiographers - Total - £1824.

4 OPTIONS

- 4.1 Refuse permission on the basis that the siting of the unit causes too much disruption to patrons of the car park.
- 4.2 Allow the unit to locate at the rear of Mill Hall, free of charge, but charge the NHS Trust for the cost of moving the lamp column (estimated to be approximately £750). Also charge for two season tickets (£720).
- 4.3 Allow the unit to locate at the rear of Mill Hall and charge £1824 to the NHS Trust for loss of revenue and two season tickets. Also charge the Trust for the cost of moving the lamp column.
- 4.4 Allow the unit to locate adjacent to the electricity sub-station and charge £4033 to the NHS Trust for loss of revenue and two season tickets.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Reputation Risk

The Breast Screening Service carry out an important and worthwhile facility to the women of the community and the Council would not wish to appear uncooperative.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Members are reminded that car parking is the only major trading initiative of the Council and therefore has an impact on the overall budget, and consequently, the level of Council Tax levy.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) that one of the above-mentioned options is agreed.

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Background Papers:

None

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