

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET13 May 2021Report by Director of EnvironmentLAND AT 48-58 MAIN STREET, NEILSTON**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of the report is to inform the Cabinet of the outcome of the proposal, reported to it on 12 March 2020, to buy back part of the land previously sold to the shop owners at 48 – 58 Main Street, Neilston.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Cabinet note the shop keepers' collective rejection of the proposal reported to the Cabinet on 12 March 2020 and accept this outcome.

BACKGROUND AND REPORT

3. The Council had previously sold the leased ground upon which the shops at 48-58 Main Street, Neilston are sited to the shop owners. This sale included land to the front and rear of the shops, leased in common. The Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 12 March 2020 proposed that the Council purchase part of these common areas. The shop owners had agreed to this in principle. The area to the rear is used as a car park and for service access. The land to the front is a common paved area. The Council's objective, upon acquiring back these areas, had been to use for public parking and as a community events area respectively.

4. Following the Cabinet's decision the shop owners were contacted to negotiate heads of terms to purchase these areas. After the shop owners' collective reconsideration of the Council's proposal they responded indicating that they no longer wished to sell these areas as previously proposed.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

5. The shop owners' rejection of the Council's proposal to buy back these areas avoids the Council taking on the associated maintenance liability, which remains with the shop owners.

CONSULTATION

6. There has been consultation within the Environment Department and Legal services.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7. The proposed sale of the land has no partnership working implications.

IMPLICATION OF THE PROPOSAL

8. There are no staffing, equality or sustainability implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSIONS

9. The shop owners' collective rejection of the Council's proposal to purchase for public use part of the land previously sold to the shop keepers, whilst frustrating the Council's ambitions to take on responsibility for these areas, avoids the financial burden arising from the upkeep of these areas had it done so.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. That the Cabinet note the shop keepers' collective rejection of the proposal reported to the Cabinet on 12 March 2020 and accept this outcome.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from Phil Daws Head of Environment (Strategic Services), 0141 577 3186 or phil.daws@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

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