

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 9 September 2019

Title: Car park incident report

Purpose of Report

To inform members of an incident in the Dowell Street carpark and the resulting review.

Recommendation:

Members to note the report.

Report

1. Unfortunately, there was an incident in the Dowell Street, car park after a Memory Café event on the 21 August 2019. During this incident an elderly member of the public fell whilst making his way across the car-park at just the moment a car was reversing.
2. As a result of prompt action by a few people the gentleman was not seriously injured, suffering from cuts and bruising, but suffered no other physical injuries. He was however badly shaken up.
3. As a result of the incident the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) were despatched and were on the scene within 11 minutes. At his point three members of the public who were all nurses had become fully involved in assessing the situation and making sure the casualty was being cared for.
4. The gentleman concerned is making a recovery and is being supported by Heather Penwarden who was on the scene as one of the organisers of the event. Heather was one of the nurses in attendance and along with the other two ladies ensured a first class care was provided.
5. The clerk has checked on the progress of the gentleman involved and whilst shaken he is recovering. A card was sent from the council expressing best wishes for a swift recovery.
6. Following the incident, the deputy mayor, town clerk and Mrs Penwarden all met up to review the incident to see if there were any measures that needed consideration and implementation. A representative of the Beehive was invited along but was unable to attend.

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- 7.** It was felt that this was an incident that could not have been prevented and happened due to several contributing factors. However, it was felt that it would be helpful if there was an area identified in the car-park that could be used as pick up and drop off point for people who might have difficulties in walking any distance.
- 8.** Following a discussion, the area at the bottom of the carpark nearest to the furthest coach bay was considered a possible area. It currently has hatched markings painted on it.
- 9.** The clerk had a meeting with Andrew Ennis, head of EDDC's parking team a few days later and it was agreed that this was the most suitable area. If council reaffirms the decision to charge for the carpark there will be signs put in place to assist with the proposal that this area can be used for disabled dropping off and picking up, but no parking as such would be allowed there as it will still be needed by coaches that visit the carpark.
- 10.** Members to note the report.

Mark Tredwin
Town clerk
September 2019