

CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE

19 February 2008

Attendance:

Councillors:

Wood (Chairman) (P)

Beckett (P)

Coates (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Bell, Beveridge and Lipscomb

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two members of the public spoke at the meeting regarding the proposals on Pay on Foot car park systems and their comments are summarised under the relevant item below.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Lipscomb raised a number of points regarding Jewry Street car park, as summarised below:

- concern that some drivers were not parking within the designated bays and were using the disabled parking spaces when not entitled to do so, especially on Sundays;
- concern that although two car parking spaces had been allocated for a particular organisation's use, they were rarely used for this purpose during the day time;
- a request that the facility to allow payment for half hour parking be reinstated, particularly as this would be convenient for people wishing to return books to the library.

In response, the Head of Access and Infrastructure noted the concerns regarding parking infringements, especially on Sundays, and stated he would investigate the possibility of using Parking Attendants to enforce this. In addition, he confirmed that the possibility of reinstating half hour parking charges could be investigated. The Head of Legal Services advised that this change would require a Notice of Variation Order to be advertised.

The Chairman stated he was in negotiations with the organisation mentioned in the second bullet point to attempt to resolve the issue.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meetings, held on 22 and 30 January 2008, be approved and adopted.

3. **PAY ON FOOT CAR PARK PAYMENT SYSTEMS - WINCHESTER TOWN CENTRE**
(Report [CAB1635\(TP\)](#) refers)

One Member queried whether it would be possible to introduce additional vehicle access points to the existing car parks, to ease some of the queuing generated by the present pay on foot system. He considered that this could be examined as part of the forthcoming consideration of the Town Access Plan.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure agreed that this could be investigated, although it might be difficult to achieve in the multi-storey car parks.

The Member also expressed concern that paragraph 7 of the Report appeared to suggest that the Council had not allocated sufficient funds in the capital programme to deal with necessary improvements to its car parks.

In response, the Head of Access and Infrastructure agreed that it had been anticipated that the existing pay on foot equipment would last for ten years from its introduction in 2003, but this had not proved to be the case. Initial investigations had indicated that improved and more reliable pay on foot equipment was now available. However, these improvements would cost approximately £70,000 to £80,000 per car park to introduce. He confirmed that the Council had consulted other local authorities on other systems being used.

In response to further questions, the Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that the Parking Office kept a record of all the incidents that occurred in each of its car parks, such as barrier malfunction etc.

With regard to Tower Street car park, the Head of Access and Infrastructure recommended that pay and display be introduced, at least for the period of the proposed building works. This was because the Sussex Street entrance and exit would be closed during this time.

Following discussion, and having regard to the response to the consultation undertaken so far, the Committee agreed that Recommendation 1 be replaced with the option outlined in paragraph 6.2, bullet point 1 of the Report. This recommended that no changes be introduced at the current time, but that Tower Street should be converted to Pay and Display for a 12 month period, whilst building works which would affect the operation of the car park took place. In addition, the Committee agreed to a review of payment options after 12 months, having regard to the experience of reintroducing pay and display facilities at Tower Street car park. This would also enable consideration of the initial findings of the Winchester Town Access Plan and more investigation of alternative pay on foot operating systems and alterations to existing car parks entrances and exits to be undertaken.

Following advice from the Head of Legal Services, the Committee agreed that the traffic order should be flexible enough to enable a decision on which payment method should be introduced at a later date. The Committee also agreed that further consultation be carried out before a final decision was made.

With regard to Tower Street car park, the Committee confirmed that after the building works had been completed, it would review the decision about whether to reintroduce pay on foot at this car park.

Two members of the public made comments regarding the Report and its proposals, as amended, as summarised below.

Mr M Tod supported the Committee's recommendations, as amended. He reported on a recent informal survey of users of pay on foot car parks (except Colebrook Street) in which 600 questionnaires had been distributed. 52 responses had been received, of which 49 favoured the retention of pay on foot, 2 stated no preference and 1 favoured pay and display. Comments made included that users favoured pay on foot systems, as it allowed greater flexibility over the length of stay. In addition, if users had experienced the system malfunctioning, they made very positive comments about how this had been dealt with by the Council's Parking Office.

The Chairman thanked Mr Tod for his comments and requested a copy of his survey.

Mr J Wheadon also welcomed the amended proposals. He had calculated that it was more financially viable to retain pay on foot systems, rather than reinstate pay and display machines, and distributed copies of his calculations to this effect. He believed that if the existing pay on foot machinery was malfunctioning, it was preferable to replace it, rather than take the retrograde step of reverting to pay and display.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Lipscomb, Bell and Beveridge spoke and their comments are summarised below.

As Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Lipscomb welcomed the proposals as amended, in particular the plans to undertake further consultation. He also welcomed the positive comments about Parking Attendants reported by Mr Tod. He requested confirmation that the proposals to trial payment of parking charges by mobile phones would not be affected.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that the payment by mobile phone trial would commence, as planned, in April 2008. The possibility of paying by credit card was also being investigated.

Councillor Bell also welcomed the amended proposals. She stated that she had used Chesil Street car park for a number of years and had never experienced problems with long queues caused by malfunctioning equipment. She also mentioned that pay and display systems were disliked by parents with children. Drivers disliked pay and display as it often required the correct change and limited their flexibility about length of stay in the town.

Councillor Beveridge welcomed the amended proposals and commented that there should now be a great deal of further consultations and technical work undertaken. He noted that the Environment Scrutiny Panel had recommended that an Informal Parking Liaison Group be established to consider this issue.

The Chairman supported the proposal to establish such an Informal Group and requested that it be comprised of representatives from various interested users groups, in addition to Councillors and officers. He requested the Head of Access and Infrastructure to progress the establishment and terms of reference of the Group.

The Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council continue to operate the pay on foot systems for the time being, apart from in Tower Street car park (see resolution 2 below), and the situation be reviewed in 12 months' time to allow further consultations to be undertaken, including consideration of the Winchester Town Access Plan, and investigation of the alternative capital costs of equipment and possible alterations to car parks entrances and exits.

2. That a pay and display system be introduced in Tower Street car park for the period of the works being undertaken by the County Council (expected to last 12 months), and a decision about whether to reintroduce pay on foot systems be made at the end of this period.

3. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to make a flexible order amending the Winchester City Council (Off Street) Parking Places Order 2003 in appropriate terms to reflect the decision of the Committee outlined in Resolutions 1 and 2 above.

4. **REVISED EMERGENCY EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – ALRESFORD DROVE AND OLD STOKE ROAD, SOUTH WONSTON**
(Report [CAB1634\(TP\)](#) refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Lipscomb welcomed the proposals outlined in the Report. However, he commented that the issues had taken a long time to resolve and requested that officers consider whether lessons could be learnt for the future.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure noted this comment and advised that he would discuss with the County Council to aim to ensure that the City Council were involved earlier in the process in such cases.

The Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Emergency Experimental Order remains in force and that the situation continues to be monitored.

2. That once the experimental order has been in place for a minimum of six months, a Report be submitted to this Committee to determine whether or not the order should be made permanent.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 10.15am

Chairman