

CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE

10 February 2009

Attendance:

Councillors:

Wood (Chairman) (P)

Godfrey (P)

Stallard (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Hiscock

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Higgins

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 17 November 2008, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Messrs W Sclater, J Bennett, J Sirl and R Backhouse (all residents of Parchment Street) and Mr S Scantlebury (a retailer based in Parchment Street) all spoke regarding Report CAB1784 (TP). Their comments are summarised under the relevant agenda item below.

3. **PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – PARCHMENT STREET, WINCHESTER**
[\(Report CAB1784 \(TP\) refers\)](#)

The Head of Access and Infrastructure explained that the parking bays at the southern end of Parchment Street currently permitted free parking for up to one hour, in addition to residents' parking.

Following public consultation and comments from Ward Members, the Report proposed to alter the Traffic Regulation Order for this area to Pay-and-Display for up to one hour, with no residents' exemption, between 8.00am and 6.00pm. However, to provide a degree of protected parking for residents, after 6.00pm, the Report proposed that the spaces be limited to residents only.

During the public participation period, Messrs Sclater, Bennett, Sirl and Backhouse explained the parking difficulties faced by residents of Parchment Street and their concerns that the proposals in the Report were likely to exacerbate this problem. In summary, their deputations highlighted the following issues:

- The lack of parking spaces available to residents, which was especially acute on Saturday mornings, and that many of these residents had young families.
- That new residential developments in the area had worsened the ratio of available parking spaces and resident permit holders.
- That, due to the lack of parking spaces, residents often had to pay twice; once for the residents' permit and again to park in the only available parking spaces, located at the pay-on-foot St Peters Street car park.
- They questioned the enforcement of restricted parking bays after 6pm.
- That, following the failure of the Winchester Car Club, the provision of residents' parking should be re-evaluated in broad terms.
- That the Parchment Street banner had been introduced to attract more shoppers to the area.
- That some businesses already benefited from off-street parking (for example, Stonemason's Court)
- That the Council should approach the owners of British Telecom's and Blake Laphorn Solicitors' car parks to enquire whether these could be available out-of-hours to local residents.
- That there had been a lack of consultation on the proposed Traffic Regulation Order.

Mr Scantlebury spoke as a retail businessman who traded from Stonemasons Court, Parchment Street. In summary, he sympathised with both the concerns of local residents and businesses regarding the difficulty of parking in Parchment Street. However, he supported the proposal set out in the Report, as it would assist businesses which had been affected by the reversal of the one-way system along Parchment Street. However, he suggested that, as a compromise, other parking bays in the street (located further away from the cluster of shops near St Georges Street), should be made residents' only. Mr Scantlebury also clarified that the terms of his lease in Stonemasons Court prohibited customers parking in the Court as, although the reality might be different, the area should be kept clear for deliveries.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Hiscock (a Ward Member) reminded the Committee of the background to the parking problems in Parchment Street. He also stated that the remainder of the parking bays in Parchment Street were mixed use, in that they were available to both shoppers (for up to an hour) and residents. However, in practice, these bays had very little turn-over as they were predominately used by residents who parked for long periods. Therefore, as these other spaces offered little benefit to customers for the street's shops, he supported the designation of the three parking spaces, as explained above and as set out in the Report.

In response to the comments made, the Head of Access and Infrastructure explained that the nature of central Winchester meant that there was always likely to be a difficulty regarding residents' parking. The reversal of the one-way system along Parchment Street had reduced the volume of traffic using the road and enabled the creation of additional parking bays. However, any further extension of residents' parking spaces was limited by the necessity to allow access for emergency vehicles.

In answer to Members' questions, the Head of Access and Infrastructure explained that, given the creation of the additional bays, residents' parking in Parchment Street was unlikely to have significantly worsened in the last year. It was also explained that parking regulations were enforced six days a week and, where relevant, to 10pm. Members also noted that where new developments had produced a net gain of dwellings; the occupiers of those additional dwellings were prohibited from purchasing residents' permits.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure added that proposed Traffic Regulation Order had been advertised in the usual manner and been accompanied by street notices. However, given the high level of awareness of the Order in the area, officers had not considered it necessary to send a letter to every address in Parchment Street.

Members noted that the Council had no control over the use of privately owned car parks, but the Head of Access and Infrastructure suggested that the Ward Members approach the owners of these car parks, to enquire if they could be used at certain times by local residents.

Following debate, the Committee concluded that the Traffic Regulation Order, as set out below, should be agreed for the reasons explained in the Report. Whilst agreeing that this would assist the traders in Parchment Street, Members were, however, sympathetic to the concerns raised by the residents. It was therefore agreed to include an additional resolution, which requested officers to investigate the conversion of the other parking bays in Parchment Street to resident permit holders only.

It was noted that this would require an additional, separate Traffic Regulation Order, which would be prioritised against the existing workloads and follow the set procedure, which was likely to take a minimum of two months to conclude.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed sections of 'Pay and Display 1 Hour Limited Waiting with No Permit Holders Exemption 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Saturday and Permit Holders Only 6:00pm to 10:00pm Monday to Saturday' waiting restrictions in Parchment Street, Winchester be approved as advertised.

2. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to make the necessary order.

3. That officers investigate the conversion of the other 1 hour limited waiting parking bays in Parchment Street to resident permit holders only.

4. **CONSIDERATION OF RESIDENTS' SEASON TICKET HOLDERS DISCOUNT**

[\(Report CAB1800 \(TP\) refers\)](#)

At its last meeting, held on 17 November 2008, the Committee had agreed to a discount for Winchester's resident permit holders of 30% on pay-and-display car park season tickets. Since that meeting, a representation from a local resident highlighted the particular problems faced by residents of Chesil Street. It was explained that, as one of the major routes in and out of the town centre, there was no on-street parking and that Chesil Street surface pay-and-display car park was often full throughout the day. Therefore, in practice, Chesil Street residents had no alternative but to use the pay-on-foot, Chesil Street multi storey car park, which was not subject to the 30% discount. Subsequently, the Report proposed that these special circumstances merited an extension of the discount to include the multi-storey car park, for Chesil Street residents only.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure clarified that, notwithstanding his reservations expressed at the previous meeting, it would be possible to monitor the use of the season ticket cards on entry to the car park to prohibit abuses of the proposed system. He also explained that the scheme would be reviewed in 12 months.

In response to Members' questions, the Head of Access and Infrastructure explained that the proposal only currently affected the three Chesil Street residents that held season tickets. He also explained that the 30% discount reflected a standard discount rate used by other local authorities.

A Member commented that other residents beyond Chesil Street could request a similar discount and it was noted that this would be included in the 12 month review.

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

RESOLVED:

1 That discounted season tickets be made available to residents of Chesil Street for use in Chesil Street Multi-Storey car park who would qualify for a Winchester City residents parking permit, at a discounted rate of 30% of the normal annual price, to park within pay

and display car parks, on condition of the usual criteria for issue of a residents' permit being satisfied.

2 That conditions apply that a valid proof of a vehicle being registered to the address of the applicant is supplied by way of documentation to be identified by Parking Services.

3 That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to amend the Parking Places Order accordingly.

4 That the scheme be reviewed after 12 months.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 10.20am

Chairman