

CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE

8 September 2014

Attendance:

Councillors:

Southgate (Chairman) (P)
Warwick (P)
Weston

Deputy Members

Councillor Humby (Deputy Member for Councillor Weston)

Other invited Councillors:

Achwal (P)
Gosling

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Mather and Tait

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held 15 July 2014, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Four people spoke regarding CAB2608(TP) and their comments are summarised under the minute below.

3. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER: GARNIER ROAD CAR PARK, WINCHESTER**

(Report CAB2608(TP) refers)

The Assistant Director (Environment) outlined the background to the Report and advised Members that it was the third time this matter had been considered by the Committee.

During public participation, four people spoke and their comments are summarised below.

Mr J Isaacson (Managing Director of Remarkable a business based in the Old Pumping Station, Garnier Road) stated that it was the third time he had attended the Committee to speak on this matter. He agreed that it would be preferable for employees of the firm who were unable to park on site to use the nearby Park and Ride as an alternative, but concerns about staff safety due to the unlit pathway between the Park and Ride and the business prevented him favouring this alternative. Furthermore there are also some leisure users that would like to park more than 4 hours. Restricting parking this way would also mean that commuters would still be able to move their vehicles between parking spaces in the area. Option 2 would have the benefit of generating income for the Council and would be a more innovative approach. Therefore, he remained in favour of Option 2 as set out in the Report for the reasons set out in the response from Remarkable contained within Appendix F of the Report.

Mr I Patton, Mr P Wilcock and Lady Stansfield Smith (all long term Winchester residents) spoke in support of Option 1 as set out in the Report. In summary, they raised the following points:

- Commuter parking at Garnier Road car park was preventing its use by recreational users and consequentially impacting on the full use being made of the refurbished tow path and Viaduct. It was highlighted that people with restricted mobility would need to park at the car park to access these routes;
- It was estimated to only be a five minute walk between the Park and Ride car park and the Garnier Road car park, although it was acknowledged to be unlit so there were potential safety concerns. Therefore, anyone wishing to park for longer than four hours had a nearby alternative;
- It was believed that there was additional space for parking for Remarkable employees available on the Pumping Station site;
- 84% of respondents to the advert were in favour of Option 1 and it would be undemocratic to go against this.
- Recreational use only of the car park was in line with Council policy.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Mather and Tait addressed the Committee as local ward Councillors and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Mather concurred with points raised above regarding commuter parking at Garnier Road car park preventing its use for recreational purposes and there was a clear preference for Option 1 in the consultation response. She believed that Remarkable should consider other options for their staff, such as providing lifts to and from their business for their employees parking at the Park and Ride. She emphasised that it was the Council's policy to maximise use of Park and Ride and also to encourage recreational use.

Councillor Tait highlighted the sometimes differing requirements of the car park users and the Remarkable business. He stated that he had supported Option 2 in order for this option to be trialled to ascertain if it could balance the requirements of recreational use and those of employees. He mentioned that since four hour parking restrictions had been introduced in Hillier Way car

park, it was less than half occupied and suggested that if Option 1 of the Report was agreed, Officers should monitor the use of the Garnier Road car park. In addition, the Council should investigate the feasibility of installing lighting along the footpath between the Park and Ride and the Garner Road car parks.

In response to Members' questions regarding ownership of the Pumping Station Land and points raised during public participation about additional parking space being available on site, Councillor Tait explained that not all the space on site was available for parking for Remarkable as there were other users and also Southern Water required access to equipment.

As Leader with Portfolio including economic matters, Councillor Humby thanked Remarkable for engaging with the Council in trying to find solutions to their parking difficulties. He also thanked the members of the public present and those who responded to the consultation.

During discussion, Committee Members queried whether it would be possible to investigate introducing additional lighting along the pathway between the Park and Ride and Garnier Road car parks. This could be of benefit to anyone wishing to park for longer than four hours and access the area around St Catherine's Hill and not just employees of Remarkable. The Assistant Director (Environment) advised that Officers could make further investigations, but highlighted that there could be possible issues regarding cost, land ownership and environmental matters to be considered. The Committee noted this and requested that further investigations be undertaken.

The Committee also requested that Officers survey the use of the Garnier Road car park after a period of six or twelve months to ascertain the level of its use by recreational users following introduction of the 4 hour restrictions.

In response to questions regarding the possibility of encouraging "park and cycle" at the St Catherine's Park and Ride car park (as had recently been introduced at South Winchester Park and Ride), the Assistant Director (Environment) advised bike lockers were already available which could be hired out at £10 per year.

On a general point, Councillor Achwal asked whether it would be possible for the Committee to request a site visit prior to future meetings. Whilst noting that in the past Committee Members had made informal individual visits, it was agreed that in the future, Members could ask for a site visit to be arranged if it was considered to be useful.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That parking restrictions be introduced in the Garnier Road car park as detailed in the schedules, original advert and plan attached as Appendices A, B and C to the Report.

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

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 10.40am

Chairman