

CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE**8 September 2005**Attendance:

Councillors:

Knasel (Chairman) (P)

Campbell (P)

Collin (P)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Beckett

1. REVIEW OF PARKING ISSUES

(Report CAB1119(TP) refers)

1.1. Park and Ride

In response to questions, the Director of Development advised that the capacity of both Park and Ride car parks was 783 spaces, and the monthly figures for August indicated that their average daily use was 685 users. It was likely that in the pre-Christmas period, both car parks would be operating at capacity. It was therefore recommended that the free two week trial offered to people renewing their town centre season tickets be discontinued at the end of September 2005. This was agreed.

The Committee requested that future reports on Park and Ride include average daily usage figures as this was a more useful indicator than the weekly figures contained in Appendix B of the Report.

1.2. On-Street Pay and Display

The Director of Development clarified that it was intended that the pay and display machine situated in Water Lane, near the junction with Wales Street, should remain. The other two machines situated on Wales Street should be removed. The relocation of these two machines along College Walk should result in more spaces being available for residents' parking in College Walk.

In response to Members' concerns about where the people currently using the two-hour free parking in College Walk would be displaced to, the Director of Development advised that they could either opt to pay the on-street parking charge, or park in a nearby car park or in another on-street area further out of the City. It was thought unlikely that they would opt to use the new 30 minutes maximum stay bays to be created in Wales Street, as this was on a different approach into Winchester.

The Committee noted a comment made by a Ward Councillor, Councillor Beveridge as he believed local residents using the College Walk on-street parking bays would prefer if these were re-designated for residents' parking only. However, the Director

of Development advised that the proposals had not resulted from a request by residents but were a means of better utilising two pay and display machines.

Councillor Beveridge had also queried whether the 2 hours maximum stay parking in Hatherley Road could be reduced to 30 minutes. However, the Director of Development advised that parking restrictions in this Road had only recently been changed and there had been no complaints from local residents since (Report CAB999 and Minutes of Cabinet held 19 January 2005 refer).

In response to questions, the Director of Development advised that the proposed extra parking bays in Tower Street could also be used by residents.

The Director of Development confirmed that consultation with affected residents would take place if the Committee agreed to the proposed changes. One Member suggested that the consultation letter to residents near College Walk could emphasise the potential benefits of more parking spaces being available.

1.3. Off-Street Parking Charges – River Park Leisure Centre (RPLC)

The Director of Development advised that DC Leisure had requested that the facility for all-day parking be removed entirely at RPLC. However, at this stage it was suggested that the facility remain but the charge for all-day parking be increased to £6.00 to bring it in line with other long-stay car parks.

One Member reported that he understood that some members of groups that regularly used the Centre had to park for longer than four hours in order to set up activities and tidy away afterwards. The examples given were the Health and Fun Club and the Bowls Club whose members tended to be elderly and therefore likely to be on a fixed income. However, it was unlikely these users would remain longer than five hours and it was therefore suggested that the time period after which the all-day charge applies be increased from four to five hours.

Members also suggested that DC Leisure or the groups themselves contact the Council in advance if they were organising a special event that would require longer parking, and special arrangements could be made if appropriate.

The Committee requested that the situation be monitored following the introduction of the new parking charges and a further report be submitted if appropriate.

1.4. Off-Street Parking Charges – Wickham Square

The Director of Development reported that Wickham Parish Council would be meeting on 12 September 2005 to decide whether it would agree to the maximum period of parking in Wickham Square being increased to three hours. Informal discussions had indicated that the Parish Council were likely to agree to this amendment, although they might request that it be introduced as a six month trial initially. There was also a possibility that a request be made that the charge increase from 70p to £1.00. However, the Director of Development commented that he would prefer if there was no increase in charge to keep in line with charges at Basingwell Street car park, Bishops Waltham.

The Committee agreed that once the views of the Parish Council were known, the final decision be delegated to the Director of Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Transport

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

RESOLVED:

1. That a free trial of Park and Ride to those renewing their car parks season tickets should not be offered after the end of September 2005.

2. That the on-street pay and display machines in Wales Street should be relocated to College Walk with charges as existing for up to 2 hours with an exemption for residents' permit holders, that the parking bays in Wales Street be designated as free parking for up to 30 minutes with an exemption for residents permit holders, that additional pay and display spaces be provided in the Broadway and Tower Street, and that the City Secretary and Solicitor publishes notice of these proposals and subject to no objections being received, makes the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order .

3. That the parking charges at River Park Leisure Centre be amended to £2.40 for 3 to 5 hours, and to £6.00 for over 5 hours, and that the City Secretary and Solicitor publishes notice of these proposals and subject to no objections being received, makes the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order .

4. That if supported by Wickham Parish Council, authority be delegated to the Director of Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Transport, to advertise proposals for an additional period of parking to be allowed at Wickham Square for up to 3 hours, and to determine the level of charge, and that subject to no objections being received, the Off-Street Parking Places Order be amended accordingly.

The meeting commenced at 11.00am and concluded at 12 noon.

Chairman