

CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE**29 April 2014****Attendance:**

Councillors:

Weston (Chairman) (P)
Humby
Warwick (P)

Deputy Members

Councillor Coates (Deputy Member for Councillor Humby)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors J Berry, Collin, Mather, Tait and Weir

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held 5 March 2014, be approved and adopted.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr P Grant spoke regarding CAB2577(TP) and Mr J Isaacson spoke regarding Report CAB2578(TP). Their comments are summarised under the relevant minutes below.

Mrs C Bousfield-Bury raised concerns regarding the recent decision to introduce parking restrictions along Five Bridges Road, Winchester. She believed this could lead to parking being displaced to Grange Road and Grange Close (where she lived) causing consequent inconvenience to residents and possible safety issues. She considered that the consultation on the proposals in Five Bridges Road was inadequate and should have included letters to residents of nearby roads, such as Grange Close.

The Assistant Director (Built Environment) confirmed that the consultation had met the legal requirements. Officers considered that the proposals would not lead to a significant displacement of parking as Grange Road was over 200 metres away and some on-street parking on Five Bridges Road would remain. However, the situation would be monitored and Mrs Bousfield-Bury should contact the Council if she had any difficulties with parked cars causing access obstructions to driveways.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Collin and Weir addressed the Committee and, in summary, raised the following points.

Councillor Collin requested that the Council should investigate the feasibility of the existing Park and Ride service being made more available to other users by, for example, introducing more permitted stops along its routes. This could become more important if the County Council reduced funding for scheduled bus services, particularly in the evenings. He acknowledged that it might not be possible to introduce more stops for Park and Ride buses during peak operating times. However, he requested that the Committee should commission a review of the current Park and Ride service to ascertain if elements could be shared with scheduled services.

Councillor Weir spoke on behalf of the residents of Grovelands and Sermon Road, Teg Down who had raised concerns that construction traffic and deliveries were causing obstructions in the area, leading to delays to the Number 4 bus service. In addition, she requested that the adequacy of off - street parking provision in Sermon Road be examined, particularly having regard to the increased developments in the area.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their comments which she would discuss further with relevant officers.

3. **20MPH SPEED LIMIT WINCHESTER CITY CENTRE**
(Report CAB2577(TP) refers)

During public participation, Mr P Grant spoke as Chairman of the St Swithuns Street and Symonds Street Residents' Association. He raised concerns about the effectiveness of the new 20mph speed limit through The Square. He requested that if the speed limit was introduced, the Council undertake monitoring both before and after and make the results publically available.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Collin, J Berry and Mather addressed the Committee and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Collin stated that he had been a long-time supporter of the introduction of a 20mph speed limit. However, he still had some concerns regarding the extent of the area to be included and specifically, the fact that the following two areas would be excluded:

- The junction of Ebdon Road and Easton Lane/Wales Street – Councillor Collin highlighted this area as it including significant pedestrian and cyclist crossing points, which were used by school children and was as part of the National Cycle Route;
- The junctions of East Hill and Bar End Road/Chesil Street where there were also a significant number of pedestrians crossing at this point.

Therefore Councillor Collin requested that the 20mph zone be extended to include Wales Street and Chesil Street.

Councillor J Berry supported the comments made by Councillor Collin regarding the junctions with Chesil Street and Wales Street, and also highlighted the number of pedestrians crossing Bar End Road to access the sports grounds.

Councillor Mather spoke in support of the proposed 20mph speed limits, but also agreed with the comments made regarding the crossing points on Wales Street and Chesil Street. She also highlighted that roads surrounding all Winchester schools should be included in the 20mph zone area. In addition, she believed that the 20mph speed limit already introduced in The Square had decreased vehicle speeds in the area.

With regard to traffic speeds in The Square, the Head of Major Projects advised that sometimes speeds could increase if traffic volumes had decreased, but monitoring in the area had only indicated a small increase in speed levels in one of the roads. He confirmed that traffic surveys were available and could be made available to the Committee and to the public on request.

The Head of Major Projects emphasised that the area of the 20mph scheme had been established by the County Council and had been funded by Central Government. Careful consideration had been given to all the entry and exit points into the zone area and a number of practical issues, such as adequate roadside space for signage, had also had an impact. He confirmed that any changes to the designated area would require the proposals to be re-advertised, with consequential delays. The Council's aspiration was for 20 mph limit to be extended across the city.

The Chairman noted the comments and concerns of the Councillors who had addressed the Committee and emphasised that the situation would be monitored and discussions continued with the County Council regarding the possibility of extending the speed limit area. However it was appropriate for the Council to take the opportunity to introduce the limit in the city centre and therefore she supported the recommendation.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the 20mph speed limit be agreed for implementation as advertised in Winchester City Centre and detailed in the schedules and plan attached as appendices A and B to the report.
2. That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the necessary order.

4. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER: GARNIER ROAD, WINCHESTER**
(Report CAB2578(TP) refers)

The Committee noted that this matter had been deferred from the previous meeting on 5 March 2014 following concerns raised by Mr J Isaacson, the Managing Director of Remarkable, a business based in the Old Pumping Station, Garnier Road, as a number of their employees used the Garnier Road car park during working hours.

During public participation, Mr Isaacson thanked officers and Councillors for meeting with the business to explore possible solutions. As an alternative to the proposal in the Report, he suggested the Council permit free parking at Garnier Road car park for up to four hours, with parking charges applying thereafter via the pay-by-phone option. He suggested the parking charges should be equivalent to those at the nearby Park and Ride car park.

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

Councillor Tait also thanked officers for their work in seeking a solution to the issue. However, he agreed with the suggestion that pay-by-phone be trialled at the Garnier Road Car Park with charges for those parking over four hours (at a level equivalent to Park and Ride charges). He considered that this still would achieve the objective of deterring all day commuter parking and consequentially free up spaces for recreational users.

Councillor Mather believed it was important that the car park was made available to recreational users and not used for commuter parking. Whilst welcoming the company Remarkable and its use of the old pumping station, she highlighted that the business already had a large car park on site and the Park and Ride car park was also located nearby. Consequentially, she supported the Report's recommendation for a four hour parking restriction at the car park.

In response to questions, the Assistant Director (Built Environment) confirmed that officers had met with Remarkable following the previous Committee meeting which had clarified that there was no option for additional on-site parking. The possibilities for the company to introduce additional measures, such as car sharing, to reduce the number of employees requiring on-site parking were also raised. It was acknowledged that the location and operating hours of the business made this more difficult, but not impossible, to achieve.

The Assistant Director explained that the introduction of pay-by-phone charging after 4 hours would require the Order to be re-advertised for comments. If introduced, there would be a cost of introducing pay-by-phone at this location and the requirement for additional signage at the car park.

Following discussion, Committee Members agreed that the recommendations as set out in the report be not agreed. The Committee resolved that the option of limiting free parking up to four hours, with charging thereafter via the pay-by-phone method be advertised for comments. Members also agreed that the level of charging to be applied would be delegated to the Assistant Director, in consultation with the Chairman.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the option of limiting free parking up to four hours at Garnier Road car park, with charging for parking thereafter via the pay-by-phone method be advertised for comments.
2. That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director (Built Environment), in consultation with the Chairman, to determine the level of parking charges to be applied to the car park.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.05am.

Chairman