

CABINET

1 OCTOBER 2003

WINCHESTER CITY (OFF STREET) PARKING PLACES ORDER 2003

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Contact Officer: Alan Jowsey Tel No: 01962 848232

RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB 539 – Cabinet 18 December 2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report considers 5 objections received as a result of the recent advertisement of the Council's proposed Off Street Parking Places Order 2003. The objections relate primarily to the introduction of parking charges for the River Park Leisure Centre car park.

At its meeting on 18 December 2002 Cabinet authorised the City Secretary and Solicitor to give public notice to appropriate the car park at River Park Leisure Centre from recreation purposes to off street car parking purposes and to proceed with such appropriation if no material objections were received. Public notice was duly given and although no objections to the appropriation were received comment was made within Objection No.5 of the Appendix to this report which is duly considered within this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the car park at River Park Leisure Centre be appropriated from s19 Local Government Act 1976 (recreation purposes) to s32. Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (off street car parking purposes).
- 2 That the proposed charging hours for the River Park Leisure Centre car park be reduced from 8am – 6pm to 9am – 5pm.
- 3 That subject to that modification, the Winchester City (Off Street) Parking Places Order 2003 be made as advertised.

## DETAIL:

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 There have been problems identified as a result of capacity problems at the Leisure Centre car park. Since the car park has been available free of charge, it appears that workers in the town centre are using the car park for all day parking and it has become increasingly difficult for Leisure Centre users to find a parking space at busy times.
- 1.2 It has therefore been proposed that pay and display charging should be introduced into the Leisure Centre car park with a charge of 20p per hour for the first 3 hours with higher charges for over 3 hours. This is significantly less than the standard short stay charge of 60p per hour in the Winchester town centre car parks but it should achieve the target of discouraging all day parking in the Leisure Centre car park while not reducing the level of usage of the Leisure Centre.
- 1.3 At the same time as the proposed charges for the Leisure Centre car park were being advertised, the opportunity has been taken to prepare an updated version of the City Council's Off Street Parking Places Order. The only significant changes from the previous Order are however related to the inclusion of the Leisure Centre car park.

### 2. Objections Received

- 2.1 Following advertisement of the revised Off Street Parking Places Order, 5 objections have been received from members of the public. Details of the objections are attached in Appendix 1, showing the name and address of the objector, a summary of the reasons for objection, and the comments of City Council officers. The objections all related primarily to the introduction of charges for the Leisure Centre car park.
- 2.2 There is only one option put forward by the objectors that it is considered has some merit. The charging hours of 8am to 6pm for the Leisure Centre car park were selected to be consistent with all other car parks. There is significant use of the car park during the early morning and early evening periods and the reduction of the charging hours to 9am to 5pm as suggested by Mr Rogerson would reduce the impact of the charges on Leisure Centre users. The reduction of charging hours would still ensure that the car park was no longer attractive for town centre workers. However there would be a loss of income to the Council of up to 20% as a result of the number of charging hours being reduced from 10 hours to 8 hours.

### 3. Conclusions

- 3.1 Out of the 5 objections received, 4 relate to the impact of charges on Leisure Centre users. A reduction in the charging hours to 9am to 5pm would assist some users of the Leisure Centre and it is recommended that this modification be approved. The City Council is able to make a modification to the proposed Order without further advertisement provided such modification reduces the effect of the Order.
- 3.2 Apart from that modification the Order should be made as advertised.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:4. CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

4.1 None

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 There would be a reduction of up to 20% in the income likely to be received from the Leisure Centre car park. The anticipated income was £47,650 per annum so this may be reduced by about £9,500 per annum.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

1. Letters of objection received as listed in Appendix 1.

APPENDICES:

1. Summary of objections to Off Street Parking Places Order 2003.