

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 13 JANUARY 2015
title: CAR PARK WORKING GROUP
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: TERRY LONGDEN – HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To report on the progress of the Council's Car Park Working Group.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Corporate Priorities - To be a well managed Council, providing efficient services based on identified customer needs. The report contributes to the objectives of a sustainable economy and thriving market towns.
- To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley, encompassing our objective to encourage economic development throughout the borough.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Community Services Committee meeting of the 27 May 2014 approved the formation of a Car Park Working Group, the purpose of which is to consider the provision and operation of the Councils off-street car parks across the borough. The provision of on-street car parking is a matter for Lancashire County Council as the Highway Authority for the area.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Two meetings of the working group have been held. The minutes for those meetings are attached as Appendices 1 & 2 to this report.

3.2 These minutes summarise the activities and progress of the group.

3.3 The date for the next meeting of the working group is to be arranged.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources - There are no financial implications as a result of this report.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal - None identified
- Political - None identified
- Reputation –The minutes of the working group meetings highlight both the firm but non aggressive approach to car parking enforcement across the borough, and that the future provision of car parking is being actively considered. These are features that should be appreciated by residents and visitors of the area.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Committee will be kept informed of any issues relating to the provision and operation of the Council's off-street car parks. A further meeting of the Car Park Working Group is to be arranged.

TERRY LONGDEN
HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

JOHN HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

List of Background papers:
Community Services Committee 27 May 2014 (minute 8)

Resources

For further information please ask for John Heap, extension 4461.

REF: TL-/CSC/130115

MINUTES OF THE CAR PARKING WORKING GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2014

AT 4.00PM

PRESENT: Cllr R Thompson (Chairman) Terry Longden
Cllr S Carefoot John Edwards
Cllr I Sayers
Cllr J Shervey Olwen Heap

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Allan Knox.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Members had asked for a review to ensure the service was both efficient and effective.

Terry informed the group that the provision of parking only referred to off-street. (LCC are responsible for on-street)

RV Enforcement Officers do not use an aggressive approach. Out of 300,000 transactions, approximately 1000 parking notices are issued out of which approximately 600 will end up paying a fine, most of which will be paid within the 14 day period that allows a lower rate to be paid. Notices that are challenged and subsequently have to be paid are allowed the 14 days grace from the time of that decision.

The Enforcement Officers' hand held PC's ensure that there is a 10 minute time lapse (observation time) before a vehicle can be booked for not displaying a ticket.

FUTURE PROVISION OF CAR PARKS

There are currently 9 car parks in Clitheroe – 3 short stay (220 spaces) and 6 long stay (260 spaces) plus large car parks at Sainsburys, Homebase, Lidl, Booths and Tesco.

There is a perceived demand for more parking in Clitheroe and options need to be considered.

These potentially could include

Small areas adjacent to the highway that could be changed to parking areas

The use of school grounds at weekends by agreement with the school management

Procurement of larger sites – the Asset Management Group has been tasked with this.

Stacker car park as part of the market re-development

Park and Ride

ACTION: To quantify what scope there is for providing more parking in Clitheroe.

CHARGE BANDS

Terry provided a summary sheet of all the charge bands for all the car parks. There is a variety of bands in the different car parks for various reasons. He suggested that there is

limited potential for the bands to be used to manage the use of the car parks to make slightly better use of space.

However to make changes to the charges it costs approximately £2000 for advertising etc.

Consideration of options also needs to be given to the car parks that do not have a charging system on them. This could include scope for charging a fee for residential use or handing them over to a 'landlord' to take care of and run.

Before any charges can be introduced, LCC have to be consulted because of the possible effect on the road network / on-street parking.

ACTION: To provide draft suggestions for the working group.

FUTURE PROOFING – METHODS OF PAYMENTS & CHARGING

At the moment the machines only take cash. Other methods of payment possible would include credit/debit card or by mobile phone to a given number.

In 2017 the machines will need modifying to take the new pound coin – costs approximately £4000. Might also be the option to stop taking some coins e.g. 5p

ACTION: Consider the additional payment options – costings.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

The cost of installing charging points stands at £20,000 for a rapid charger on a short stay car park achieving approximately 80% charge in 30 minutes. Although it would be good to have them it is not financially viable.

ACTION: The installation of charging points NOT to be pursued.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parking for bikes_– this is limited on most car parks

ACTION: Secure more provision for bikes.

Do motorbikes pay? Needs proper signage to make it clear.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was arranged for Thursday 20 November 2014 at 4pm.

Meeting closed at 5.30pm.

MINUTES OF THE CAR PARKING WORKING GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2014

AT 4.00PM

PRESENT: Cllr R Thompson (Chairman) Terry Longden
Cllr S Carefoot John Edwards
Cllr I Sayers
Olwen Heap

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Allan Knox.

FUTURE PROVISION OF CAR PARKS

A map was provided showing the RV long and short stay car parks along with potential proposed sites, sites owned by other organisations and sites that had been considered but unavailable.

Other sites were identified by members – areas to be considered.

Members considered the sites and asked officers to pursue
7 spaces at physiotherapy centre
LCC owned sites
Other sites in private ownership

Also to be investigated – planning gain for car parking in a specified area.

ACTION: Pursue sites as above

CHARGE BANDS

These had been examined and it was felt there was little scope for improvement as most car parks are well used as they are. Exceptions included the Market car park but it is thought the problem was access not charge bands; and Holden Street where an additional access onto Taylor St might be advantageous.

ACTION: Investigate additional access for Holden Street car park.

FUTURE PROOFING – METHODS OF PAYMENTS & CHARGING

At the moment the machines only take cash. Other methods of payment possible would include credit/debit card or by mobile phone to a given number.

Terry had prepared a capital bid for 2017/18 to introduce cashless payments however the cost of processing the payments was still being investigated.

ACTION: Continue to pursue.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Terry had prepared a capital bid for 2017/18 for the installation of a charging point assuming grant aid of 75%.

ACTION: Continue with the capital bid.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Options for introduction of CCTV with expansion of Superfast Broadband.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be arranged for after the Community committee in January.

ACTION : Terry would prepare an information report for Community committee in January 2015.

Meeting closed at 5.00pm.