

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	16 JUNE 2021	5

### CAR PARK WORKING GROUP OUTCOMES 2020/21

#### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

#### SUMMARY

The car park work group met during late 2020 and early 2021 to discuss a variety of issues including Alderman and Councillor access to Stanner Bank Car Park, the provision of public toilets on or near to North Beach Car Park, St Annes Multi-Storey Car Park, Ballam Rd Car Park, overnight motorhome parking, the Fylde Resident Permit Scheme and the Council's Corporate Plan. Recommendations have been made by the working group for the committee to decide on.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### The committee is requested to:

1. Agree that access cards to Stanner Bank Car Park be granted to Alderman and that access cards are not provided to Councillors. Cards will be available to borrow from Fylde Parking Services if required for Fylde Council business.
2. Agree to changes to the overnight motorhome parking scheme including:
  - a. On St Annes Swimming Pool Car Park limit the maximum number of motorhomes allowed to stay overnight to 7; restricted to the existing oversized bays whilst parked overnight with a maximum length of 8m.
  - b. Where overnight motorhome parking of motorhomes is limited to certain bays, all other vehicles to be excluded from parking in those bays.
3. Agree to Extend the times when the Fylde Resident Permit Scheme can be used on town centre car parks from 9-10am and 4-6pm to 9-11am and 3-6pm.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Regarding Alderman Parking Permits

Operational Management Committee at its meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 resolved;

- To agree to the provision of an Alderman's car parking pass for use on all Fylde Borough owned and operated car parks without any time restrictions.

Regarding North Beach Public Toilets

Operational Management Committee at its meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 resolved;

- To request that the Finance & Democracy Committee approve an addition to the Capital Programme for 2019/20 in the sum of £185,000 in relation to the provision of toilet facilities and perimeter fencing at the

Splash Park facility, that scheme replacing the existing scheme within the approved Capital Programme for 2019/20, in the same amount, in relation to the provision of toilet facilities at North Beach Car Park, with funding for the new scheme being by way of a virement in the sum of £185,000 from the previously approved scheme for the provision of toilet facilities at North Beach Car Park;

- To take no further action regarding toilet and sluice facilities until the outcome of a court case at North Beach is known. Once the outcome has been established the committee will request that an appropriate scheme is worked up, preferably for inclusion in 2020/2021

Regarding Overnight Motorhome Parking

Portfolio Holder Decision – 14th March 2012

- Report to allow Overnight motorhome parking on St Annes Swimming Pool Car Park

Operational Management Committee at its meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 resolved;

- To continue operating an overnight motorhome parking scheme on North Beach Car Park with the same restrictions as applied during the pilot scheme.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

### REPORT

1. During August 2020 several parking-related issues were raised which officers required a steer from members to address. The Car Park Working Group met on 14/09/20, 28/09/20 and 27/01/21 to review the issues and composed of Cllrs Clayton, Hodgson, O'Rourke, Small, Trudgill and Withers. Issues discussed included Alderman and Councillor access to Stanner Bank Car Park, the provision of public toilets on or near to North Beach Car Park, St Annes Multi-Storey Car Park, Ballam Rd Car Park, overnight motorhome parking and the Council's Corporate Plan.
2. An additional meeting, held on 09/11/20 and included members of the Planning Committee's Highways and Transportation group (Cllrs Oades and Dixon), was arranged to consider and establish a Council position to Lancashire County Council's on-street parking proposals for St Annes Promenade, by Lowther Gardens and the residential permit scheme in Lytham.

### ALDERMAN AND COUNCILLOR ACCESS TO STANNER BANK CAR PARK

3. As part of the Fairhaven and Church Scar Coastal Defence Scheme, Stanner Bank Car Park was remodelled with the inclusion of a barrier control system. Access cards can be used to enter and exit the car park without payment. These cards cost £4 each. Cards have been provided to different sections of the Council and key partner organisations (i.e. RNLI, Coastguard, Police and Fire Brigade) who may need to access parts of the car park for service delivery. Cards have not been issued to individual members of staff with 'All Car Parks' permits, only to those who have an operational reason to access the car park regularly.
4. The working group were asked to consider whether cards should be provided to Alderman and Councillors who currently hold permits to all car parks. Alderman were granted free parking on all car parks in 2017 in recognition of their years of service to the Borough. Councillors are issued 'All Car Parks' permits for use only in connection with Council Business.
5. The working group agreed to recommend that with the relatively small number of Alderman and the previous committee resolution, access cards to Stanner Bank car park should be granted to Alderman. For Councillors, as the need for access to the car park for business reasons is likely to be rarely required and alternative parking is

available at Fairhaven Bowling Green and St Paul's Avenue Car Parks, the group agreed to recommend that access cards should not be provided to Councillors. However, cards will be available to borrow as required from Parking Services.

#### **PROVISION OF PUBLIC TOILETS ON OR NEAR NORTH BEACH CAR PARK**

6. Funding for the provision of public toilets on North Beach Car Park was included in the Capital programme for 2019/20. However, following the first season that the Splash Park operated, the Operational Management Committee recommended in November 2019 transferred the funding to build new public toilets by the Splash Park facility. The committee also recommended that the North Beach toilets be reconsidered at a future time when legal issues involving a neighbouring facility was resolved.
7. The Council will take over the neighbouring facility in July 2021. As part of the options appraisal for the future use of the facility the provision of public toilets will be considered. The outcome will be reported back to the Operational Management committee.

#### **ST ANNES MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK**

8. The under-use of St Annes multi-storey car park was discussed by the working group. The owners of the facility have previously requested assistance in improving use of the facility. Currently the lifts are inoperable resulting in accessibility issues for upper levels. Issues regarding signage to the car park, antisocial behaviour and security within the facility have been highlighted.
9. The group were advised that the Town Centre Working Group were to consider issues associated with the multi-storey car park as part of a wider scheme for the town centre. The car park working group agreed that the Town Centre Working Group were best placed to further consider this issue.

#### **BALLAM ROAD CAR PARK**

10. The land on which Ballam Road Car Park is located is owned by Fylde Council and leased to a private company, who have responsibility to operate and maintain the land, for use as staff parking. A condition of the lease is that the car park is available for public use on weekday evenings and at weekends to access Park View Playing Fields.
11. Reports had been received that car meets had been occurring resulting in speed trials taking place in the local area. A request had been made to assist with preventing this activity.
12. The working group considered whether the introduction of barriers to the car park would prevent the car meets. Aside from issues as to who would open and close the barrier, this would limit use of the car park by members of the public in the evenings and at weekends and is likely to result in the issue being displaced onto other locations which are likely to have a greater impact on residents. The Police are aware of the issue and the Council have requested that the police tackle the issue of speeding.

#### **LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ON-STREET PARKING PROPOSALS**

13. In October 2020 Lancashire County Council published consultation documents relating to a variety of proposals affecting on-street parking on North, South and Inner Promenade; roads around Lowther Gardens and an extension to the Westby St residents permit scheme. Details were shared with all Fylde Councillors and opinions sought to help develop a Fylde Council response to the Consultation.
14. A special combined meeting of the Car Park Working Group and the Planning Committee's Highways Transportation Group was arranged to consider the proposals. Members of this group were provided in advance with all the responses received from Borough Councillors. The proposals were divided into different parts with members asked to reach a consensus. The following sets out the group's response:
  - Extension of the Westby Street residents permit schemeAgree

- Introduction of pay and display parking by Lowther Gardens  
Disagree – The proposal would result in negative impacts on neighbouring residential streets where vehicles would be displaced to.
- Introduction of pay and display parking along the sea-ward side of the Promenade  
Disagree - The proposal would result in negative impacts on neighbouring residential streets where vehicles would be displaced to.
- Extension of no waiting at any time along the land-ward side of South/Inner Promenade  
Agree
- Introduction on a restriction of overnight parking to cars only along the sea-ward side of the Promenade  
Agree
- Introduction of bus/coach drop off/pick up bays and waiting area along parts of the sea-ward side of the Promenade  
Agree
- Introduction of a loading ban along both sides of St Annes Road West from the Promenade to Clifton Drive  
Agree

15. The outcome of this meeting was passed to the Director of Development Services who included the information in the formal response to the consultation from Fylde Council.

16. A report on the consultation will be presented to Lancashire County Council's Cabinet Committee. If a decision is made to proceed with any of the proposals a formal process must be followed to implement which could take a year or more.

#### **TRAVELLERS ON COUNCIL-OWNED CAR PARKS**

17. Concerns have been raised regarding the vulnerability of Council-owned car parks from groups of travellers with questions raised as to whether protective measures should be introduced to stop or dissuade them.

18. Over 5 years from August 2015 to September 2020 there were 21 instances where Fylde Council's Legal Services recorded traveller groups stayed on council-owned land and court proceedings were initiated. 7 of these instances occurred on Council-owned car parks; 4 occasions on North Promenade Car Park and once each on Fairhaven Road, North Beach and St Annes Swimming Pool Car Parks. On each occasion legal costs have been approximately £255. Traveller groups have stopped on Council-owned car parks on other occasions but have left before court proceedings were initiated. On each instance the groups have been moved on within a few days of arrival.

19. Other North West authorities were asked what measures they take to protect car parks. Of those who responded, who predominantly operate locations that are only accessed by smaller vehicles, most indicated that measures were determined by use of the car parks. Measures taken included rapid intervention to have travellers moved on, which is the action Fylde currently takes, height restrictors, barriers, earth-mounds, boulders, and legal injunctions. A common opinion is that although measures may help to deter travellers if they wish to gain access they will. Where legal injunctions have been obtained, the frequency and impact of incidents have been very high (over 100 within a year) to demonstrate the need for an injunction.

20. Members were advised for each car park of current uses and the requirement for access by larger vehicles. The discussions led into overnight motorhome parking with no definitive position reached on this issue.

#### **OVERNIGHT MOTORHOME PARKING**

##### **BACKGROUND**

21. In 2012 overnight motorhome parking was allowed on the lower section of St Annes Swimming Pool Car Park. Following the success of this scheme it was extended to North Beach Car Park. At both locations a reduction in antisocial behaviour has been observed.
22. Although the motorhome scheme at St Annes Swimming Pool Car Park has been successful in attracting new visitors to the area, to the extent that other districts cite Fylde Borough as an example when establishing their own schemes, there is an opinion of some that the scheme is a victim of its own success. During the summer months, particularly during summer 2020 when fewer international holidays were taken, the number of motorhomes in the lower section of the car park regularly exceeded 30. On these occasions the large number of motorhomes displaced other visitors, particularly when larger vehicles park over multiple bays (which current restrictions allow for) and has an alleged detrimental effect on some neighbouring businesses.
23. Following the Car Park Working Group meeting in 2019 the prices of overnight parking were increased in an attempt to manage use. These changes were implemented following the lifting of lockdown restrictions in May 2020. However, in part due to the unique situation the year presented, the price changes did not result in reduced use. During the review of fees and charges by the committee on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 it was agreed to further increase prices to manage use.

#### PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE MOTORHOME PARKING

24. The Car Park Working Group of 2020/21 extensively discussed overnight motorhome parking; whether motorhomes should be banned from all car parks, limited to a single location or spread out in smaller numbers across numerous locations. All sea-front car parks were considered. Consensus was reached that provision of overnight motorhome parking was required; however, this should be spread out in smaller numbers across multiple car parks on which motorhomes would be restricted to certain bays. The following car parks were suggested as potential options:
  - St Annes Swimming Pool – limit overnight motorhome parking to the 7 oversized parking bays that are currently available. The maximum vehicle length would be reduced to 8m.
  - North Beach – motorhomes are currently restricted to 10 bays with a maximum length of 10m located away from residential properties. This should remain unchanged.
  - North Promenade – a 12-month trial with 6 bays designated for overnight motorhome parking with the bays located on the seaward side of the car park away from neighbouring residential properties. Due to the shape and layout of the car park it would be impractical to enable longer motorhomes without significantly reducing the overall capacity of the car park. Maximum length would be limited to 6m. To provide greater width, 9 current standard bays would be used to provide 6 wider bays with relevant hatching to the side of a neighbouring disabled bay also being provided. See Image 1.
  - St Paul's Avenue – a 12 month trial with 8 bays designated for overnight motorhome parking with the bays located towards the far end of the car park, away from residential properties where it is tree-lined providing a screen from properties on Inner Promenade. Due to the width of the car park and the need to retain the turning area at the far end it is not possible to provide longer bays. Maximum length limited to 5m. To provide greater width, 12 standard bays would be used to provide 8 wider bays.
  - Fairhaven Road – This location was considered appropriate for this scheme for the provision of about 6 overnight motorhome parking bays. However due to the temporary Covid testing facility currently located on most of the car park, which is likely to remain in place until the end of 2021, plus the likelihood that in 2022 most of this location will be required to facilitate the proposed St Annes Sea Wall works, it is not recommended to take this proposal forward at this time.
  - Stanner Bank – The far end of the car park was considered appropriate to locate some overnight motorhomes, though opinion was that at this time this option wouldn't be progressed.

Image 1 – North Promenade Car Park Proposed Location of 6 Overnight Motorhome Bays



Image 2 – St Paul's Avenue Car Park Proposed Location of 8 Overnight Motorhome Bays (red)  
(New Disabled Bays created in 2020 Identified in Blue)



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26. At each location users would be directed to where liquid waste can be disposed of plus signposted to other locations including other Fylde Council car parks plus other facilities in neighbouring boroughs.
27. The charges for St Annes Swimming Pool and North Beach were adjusted by the committee on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021, though the charge for the 3<sup>rd</sup> day will need to be removed. It is proposed that North Promenade's charges for overnight motorhome parking matches St Annes Swimming Pool and St Paul's Avenue is the same as that at North Beach.
28. During the day, motorhomes will be able to park in any standard bay at the standard parking fees on all long stay car parks as they currently do. Restrictions on parking areas will only apply to those parking overnight.
29. The working group suggested that additional enforcement resource is required out of standard operating hours during the main season. Parking Services will work with the Council's enforcement contractors to facilitate this. This will incur additional unbudgeted costs.

30. It should be noted that Parking Services can only enforce against contraventions associated with the vehicle (i.e. whether they have paid to stay, how long they stay for, whether they are located in the correct area, are parked within a bay, are of the correct length and that trailers and caravans are not allowed). Open fires and BBQs can be enforced by other Council officers under the relevant PSPO. For other conditions Parking Civil Enforcement Officers can only request users comply with them, not enforce against them.

## CONSULTATION

31. To help inform the committee on opinions regarding the proposals a public consultation was carried out. The consultation (Appendix 1) was hand-delivered to residential and business properties neighbouring North Promenade, Swimming Pool and St Paul's Avenue Car Parks and notices were placed on the tariff boards at these car parks and on North Beach Car Park. Ward Councillors and other key stakeholders were emailed the details directly.
32. Lancashire County Council's proposed changes to on-street parking along North, South and Inner Promenade, as set out in points 13 to 16 above, includes a proposal to ban overnight parking of all non-cars (including motorhomes) from the sea-ward side of the road. This is due to be considered by Lancashire County Council's Cabinet soon. To be able to consider the impact of LCC's decision on the wider area and how the proposals for overnight parking of motorhomes on car parks is influenced by this, the outcome of the consultation will be reviewed by the car park working group with any revised proposal presented to committee.
33. To address concerns about the number of motorhomes currently using St Annes Swimming Pool Car Park over the upcoming 2021 summer season it is proposed that changes to this location be brought in before the car park working group review the consultation details in light of LCC's decision. As such the committee is asked to agree to limit the number of motorhomes on St Annes Swimming Pool Car Park to 7, restricting them to the current oversized parking bays whilst parking overnight and exclude all other vehicle types from parking in the oversized parking bays at any time. Implementing these changes will cost approximately £2,000 for changes to the legal order and signage. In addition, income for the car park is likely to reduce by between £10,000 to £15,000 as a result of a significant decrease in motorhome income which has a higher value than standard vehicle pay and display income.

## FYLDE RESIDENT PERMIT SCHEME

34. The Fylde Resident Permit Scheme was established to provide those who live within the Borough the opportunity to obtain an annual permit to park in a variety of Council owned and operated car parks for up to 2 hours a day during the summer season and up to 4 hours a day over the winter period on a single car park. The following is an annual update on the scheme.
35. Below are details of the number of permits and reissued permits (e.g. if the permit has been lost after being issued) that were purchased since the scheme started. During the pilot year all permits expired on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 irrespective of when they were purchased. Subsequently it was agreed that the scheme should be made permanent with the conditions slightly adjusted. This was promoted in the Council Tax leaflet sent to all Fylde Borough Residents in mid-March 2015, which resulted in many applicants for the revised scheme over the following weeks. The scheme has been promoted in subsequent Council Tax leaflets each year since which has resulted in a further increase in applications. As such the middle of March is used to define each annual period for comparison purposes. The scheme was refined and expanded in 2016/17.
36. Table 1 shows that the number of permits issued has increased each year supported by many of the existing customers renewing their permits with new customers to compensate for those that have not renewed.

**Table 1: Number of Permits Issued**

Period	New	Renewed	Total Permits	Replacements
Pilot Phase (01/05/14 to 08/01/15)	105	N/A	105	9
01/03/15 to 13/03/16	150	79	229	13

14/03/16 to 12/03/17	223	70	<b>293</b>	<b>12</b>
13/03/17 to 13/03/18	158	163	<b>321</b>	<b>24</b>
14/03/18 to 10/03/19	177	204	<b>381</b>	<b>25</b>
11/03/19 to 08/03/20	194	241	<b>435</b>	<b>22</b>
09/03/20 to 10/03/21	95	210	<b>305</b>	<b>9</b>

37. Table 2 sets out the income from the scheme. Permits (new and renewed) cost £20.83 (£25 inc. VAT) and replacements £12.50 (£15 inc. VAT).

**Table 2: FRPS Income**

Period	New and Renewed	Replacement	Total Income
Pilot Phase (01/05/14 to 08/01/15)	£2,187.15	£112.50	£2,299.65
01/03/15 to 13/03/16	£4,770.07	£162.50	£4,932.57
14/03/16 to 12/03/17	£6,103.19	£150.00	£6,253.19
13/03/17 to 13/03/18	£6,686.43	£300.00	£6,986.43
14/03/18 to 10/03/19	£7,936.23	£312.50	£8,248.73
11/03/18 to 08/03/20	£9,061.05	£275.00	£9,336.05
09/03/20 to 10/03/21	£6,353.15	£112.50	£6,465.65

38. Prior to the pandemic the number of permit holders had increased slowly year-on-year. During 2020/21 the number of new permit holders significantly dropped with a slight decline in renewed permits resulting in 130 less permits being purchased. It is hoped that with the easing of covid restrictions and public confidence to travel improves that the number of new permits will increase again.

39. The car park working group reviewed the scheme. Currently the scheme is open to Fylde Borough residents only and, for £25 per year, offers one parking stay per day of:

- 21<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> October – up to 2 hours parking on a designated long stay car park at any time OR to park on a town centre car park either between 9 and 10am or 4 to 6pm.
- 1<sup>st</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> March – up to 4 hours parking on a designated long stay car park at any time OR to park on a town centre car park either between 9 and 10am or 4 to 6pm.

Dicconson Terrace Car Park is classified as a town centre car park. Stanner Bank Car Park is excluded from the scheme.

40. The car park working group have recommended that to improve the offer of the scheme the time restriction on short stay car parks should be extended to be between either 9 and 11am or 3 to 6pm each day to encourage visits to the town centres out of peak hours.

41. To promote the scheme the Car Park working group advised that advertising should be free or low cost to the Council, utilising social media and the reverse of pay and display tickets. The scheme is promoted each year in the council tax leaflet sent to all residents and regularly promoted via social media and the Council's e-newsletter. Currently the reverse of tickets advertises the Council's Tourism website, this will be changed when the current stock of tickets is used.



## FYLDE COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN

42. Fylde’s Corporate Plan 2020-2024 includes 5 items relating to car parks. Advice was sought from the Car Park Working Group as to what is expected for each to be delivered.

- a) Provide car parking to attract customers – high priority Q4 2020/21. This is evidenced by improved signage on the car parks through an ongoing programme of consolidating and replacing older secondary signage and updating and replacing tariff boards, lining North Beach Car Park, and responding to need e.g. assessing motorhome provision.
- b) Explore opportunities to introduce electric car charging points – low priority Q3 2021/22. Taxi charging scheme is still being worked on which will provide public charging for the first few years of operation before being limited to taxis only. Funding may be available for car parks that cater for resident parking (e.g. Pleasant Street Car Park, Lytham). Details will be considered during Autumn 2021.
- c) Promote the resident’s car parking permit and simplify the offer – low priority Q4 2020/21. Look to increase permit promotion via social media and weekly council email newsletter and promoting on back of pay and display tickets. Advertising should be no-cost to the council. The working group supported the extension of when the permit could be used on short stay car parks. Currently this can be used between 9-10am and 4-6pm. It is proposed to increase this to between 9 and 11am and 3-6pm. This is set out in points 38 to 40 above.
- d) Work with LCC to develop car parking options for the coastal promenades and manage overnight parking provision – high priority Q1 2021/22. This is in progress as set out in points 13 to 16 above.
- e) Review motorhome parking provision – high priority Q1 2021/22. Once LCC have reached a decision on proposals Fylde Council will be able to assess the implications on the wider local area and how the overnight parking scheme on Council car parks can be amended to meet the needs of locals and visitors.

43. Further details on progress for these items is set out in a separate report on this committee’s agenda.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The proposed changes to overnight motorhome parking will incur costs of approximately £2,000 and potentially will result in a reduction in annual income of £10,000 to £15,000 as detailed in the report. These changes will be reflected in futures updates of the medium-term financial strategy if the proposals are approved.
Legal	To implement the proposed changes to the overnight motorhome parking scheme the car park Traffic Regulation Order will need to be varied.
Community Safety	Antisocial behaviour and speeding issues associated with Ballam Road Car Park referred to the Police.
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Past reports		Council office or web site

Attached documents

Appendix 1 – consultation on proposals for changing overnight motorhome parking scheme.