

Appendix 3: Issues to be Explored By the Car Park Working Group

Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan for 2016-2020 includes a few items relating to car parks. This includes:

A Vibrant Economy – Priorities: ‘Improve car parking’

A Vibrant Economy – Actions: ‘Enforce car parking regulations and review car parking options’

A Great Place to Live – Actions: ‘Build on the success of the Residents’ Car Parking Scheme’

Fylde Officers require guidance on what type of action Members anticipate to be taken to achieve these actions.

Christmas Parking

The Operational Management Committee has asked that a report be presented on the success/impact of the Christmas Free Parking Scheme. For about the last 7 years a concession on parking has been offered in the lead up to Christmas. This was initiated to aid Town Centre businesses that had been affected by the start of the recession. For the last 5 years this has involved allowing free parking on all car parks on the three weekends leading up to Christmas.

To enable the report to be produced parking services are intending to send out a questionnaire to all businesses that are located near to pay and display car parks. Members are asked to consider what type of response they would expect to receive and what type of questions we should be asking of them.

Fylde Resident’s Permit Scheme

As stated within the Corporate Plan, we need to build on the scheme’s success. How do members see us achieving this? Do we adjust the scheme criteria? Do we look to promote the scheme further?

Motorhomes

Since motorhomes were first allowed to stay overnight on the rear section of the swimming pool car park 4 years ago the scheme has gone from strength to strength. Numbers are now regularly exceeding 20 on a single night and on occasion have reached 30. Some, possibly neighbouring businesses or regular users of the car park may consider this number to be too great, that the scheme is now too successful. One way to reduce the numbers on this car park is to extend the scheme to others.

The scheme was originally set on the rear section of the swimming pool car park because there are no/very few neighbouring residents that can see them, which was the main concern when the scheme was initially set up. There was a fear by residents that motorhomers would be noisy and leave a lot of waste. From our experience this has not been true, however if we try to extend the scheme to other car parks similar local concerns are likely to be raised. As such the most suitable other car parks could be St Paul’s Avenue, North Beach and Lytham Station. St Paul’s will not be able to progress for a few

years due to coastal defence works around Fairhaven Lake. On North Beach and Lytham Station there are some neighbouring residents who may have issues with the scheme.

Do members wish to proceed with consultation with residents with a view to extend the overnight motorhome parking scheme? Are the car parks identified the most appropriate for this?

Electric Vehicle Charging

Lancashire County Council obtained funding to implement environmental/electrical changes. Most of this funding was identified for upgrades to street lights to LED which they have been proactive in installing. The remainder of the funding was an expectation that they would install a series of electric vehicle charging points across the County.

In March a representative from LCC met with a group of Lancashire District representatives to explain the proposed scheme to install a network of electric vehicle charging points. The following outlines the proposal:

- The deadline for installing the charging points is March 2018.
- Funding is available for approximately 75 units (depending on type of unit selected) to be spread across the County. Each unit can serve 2 parking bays.
- Units require a 3 phase electric supply.
- LCC would like to install these charging points on car parks. However if appropriate locations cannot be found then they will look for appropriate on-street locations.
- LCC will pay for full installation and on-going maintenance costs. The districts will not be liable for any costs, though further clarification is required relating to insurance.
- LCC anticipate that the scheme would operate by a customer using the charging point by paying for the electric charge using a charge-card. Included in this cost would be electricity as well as the cost of maintenance of the machine. The charge would be kept at a cost-neutral amount so LCC are not intending to make a profit from this. However, should a profit be made then this amount would be ring-fenced for further maintenance and/or installation of more charging points.
- LCC are asking Fylde Council and other Lancashire Districts to supply the associated car park bays for free, which potentially could be at a cost to Fylde Council. LCC anticipate charging the same fee across the County. There may be scope for Districts to negotiate on this to ensure part of the customer's payment includes an element of a parking fee to be paid to the Districts, though to keep the customer's payment across Lancashire the same it is likely that Fylde would need to accept an amount lower than our current parking fees.
- To ensure the charging point bays are not abused by others trying to obtain all day free commuter parking a time limit would need to be applied for these bays (e.g. 3 hours). Enforcement officers will be able to issue Penalty Charge Notices to any vehicle staying longer than 3 hours or if they find that they are not using the charging point.
- LCC intend to establish an open data sharing agreement so that each District will be able to find out how many people have used each designated bay and for how long.
- An agreement will need to be established for the minimum time the units are retained. This is likely to be the expected operational lifetime for the units which would be confirmed with manufacturers when they have been procured.

- If districts wish to obtain further charging units above the budgeted amount, eg to cover more car parks or for the Council's own use, then LCC would be willing to add additional units to their bulk-purchase to obtain lower rates and recharge them at cost.

The following car parks have been identified as potential locations for such a scheme:

Mill Street car park, Kirkham - 2 charging points/4 bays

Pleasant Street car park, rear section, Lytham – 1 charging point/2 bays

Lytham Station car park, Lytham – 1 charging point/2 bays

North Promenade car park, St Annes – 1 charging point/2 bays

Town Hall car park, St Annes – 1 charging point/2 bays (possible issues with this but the closest I think we can offer to the town centre)

Other long-stay car parks are unlikely to suit LCC's requirements. The short stay car parks of St Annes Sq and Wood St would not be suitable.

Do members:

- Support the principle of this scheme?
- Think the identified locations are correct?
- Have any thoughts on changes to parking policy/legal orders to support the scheme?
- Agree with LCC's proposal or wish caveats to be proposed?

New Car Parks

With an expanding population and the number of vehicles per households increasing, there are increasing demands for parking, particularly in town centres. Do members want us to explore the options for:

- Extending existing car parks?
- Create new car parks on existing Council-owned land?
- Acquire new land to build new car parks?

Parking Fees and Charges

Apart from the slight changes to the parking fees that were made in 2014, car park fees and permit charges have remained the same since 2011. Do members wish to:

- Review and adjust existing parking fees and charges?
- Extend fees and charges to car parks that are currently free?

Additional Queries Raised

- There is a general opinion that there is not enough enforcement carried out at weekends and it has been suggested that the enforcement service would benefit from being provided on an annualised hours basis, whereby the hours were directed at times of greater need.
- Would it be beneficial for Fylde Council to commission or deliver directly a joint on-street and off-street parking enforcement service?