

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

25th July 2007

7.00pm

Committee Room 2, Town Hall

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25 July 2007

Meeting Notes

Public Consultation

It was resolved at the Executive Committee meeting held on 28 March, that before Members could make a decision as to whether to introduce CPE, or not, public consultation should be undertaken.

Consequently, a full page advertisement was placed within the Redditch Advertiser on 6 June, stating all the relevant details of what CPE involves. The public were asked to vote for their preferred option, of either do nothing, or for this Council to introduce CPE. The votes cast could either be in a form of a returnable cut out coupon, by visiting the Council's web site, or e-mailing direct to myself (a copy of the advertisement is attached for information).

The result of the consultation is as follows:

- 128** **total votes were received;**
- 27** **were in favour of do nothing;**
- 101** **were in favour of this Council adopting Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)**

**THEREFORE, 79% OF THE VOTES RECEIVED, WERE IN FAVOUR OF THIS COUNCIL
ADOPTING CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT (CPE)**

Voters were also asked also to provide comments, if they so desired, and these were as follows:

Comments from those in favour of do nothing:

Although the benefits are listed in the advertisement, the disadvantages were not, such as passing trade for businesses etc., visitors new to the area, deliveries to premises and adding to

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increased costs to the customer. There is also the use of illegally made registration plates, the real owner getting all the trouble and still having to pay, as the Courts says, 'it cannot be proved'. This is totally wrong. I work all over the country and use a company car, so have experienced these restrictions many times. The fact that many Councils have taken up this, only goes to prove that it is just another money making scam on the already easy target of the motorist. I would be interested to receive any comments you have regarding this.

I am against the idea of putting in a Civil Parking Enforcement team in Redditch Borough Council. The two main reasons for my feeling is that these teams would appear in my experience to act in a very black or white approach, giving no scope of reasonable behaviour, for example, unloading outside my offices which I do get from the local traffic warden and which is very much appreciated. Secondly, if there was enough parking in the town for local businesses then I feel the issue would be a lot less than it is at the moment. Half of car park 7 is closed, would it not be reasonable to open this up and issue permits to local businesses? I am in the process of taking a permit for car park 7, but have been told that it is one of the last ones available, and it is costing me dearly. I get no discount of long term rental in the car park. As I say, I have taken one permit, but I was not told of any discounted scheme available. I would certainly look at taking several more if they were available.

There are enough 'Specials' to do the job. Causes abuse of power like the 'clampers'. All civilian positions are open to abuse e.g. clampers, parking, speed cameras, are open to abuse of power – no, no, no.

Hasn't the poor motorist suffered enough? To employ 'bully boy' parking attendants is totally unacceptable, to do nothing is a far better option, but this is not ideal. Why not consider an alternative such as, 'reasonably priced' parking meter.

Parking attendants would be too costly to employ and too officious.

It is simply another way to get money, and £60/£30 is a lot of money out of the unlucky motorist, and to use bailiffs to collect is abhorrent as they are simply bullies. A fine could be hundreds by the time they get it. If people can't pay the fine how on earth are they going to pay what the bailiff asks for. I used to work for bailiffs – they are not nice people.

I am totally against parking enforcement, especially permit parking outside residential homes, where are visitors supposed to park? It is just another tax on the hard pressed motorist and a

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way for the local Councils to gain extra revenue, that's why so many have taken this up. It does not improve congestion, look at Birmingham, Reading, and all London Boroughs, also Worcester. All these areas are still congested despite parking enforcement. The main reason for

this is roads taken up with bus lanes, thus increasing traffic. As regards to parking near Schools, this is just aimed at the parents who do two journeys a day, and are terrible parkers anyway. In fact, all the benefits that are listed are really lame excuses to try and convince the easily led, to vote for this to be enforced. I am not condoning illegal parking just the way it is implemented against the motorist. I would be interested to speak to anyone at the Council in person, or if there could be a meeting regarding this, if times are convenient.

Comments from those in favour of this Council adopting Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE):

Get this off the ground quick. I'm a driving instructor, and the inconsiderate parking drives me mad. Get them to target the mothers who park all over the corners and double park on the school runs, kids have legs.

Leaving parking enforcement in the hands of the police is not an option, as they are totally unable to deal with parking problems at the time they occur.

Hopefully this will be approved, and will stop inconsiderate parking at junctions (especially along Mount Pleasant Road) and schools.

This is long overdue, but I am concerned that it won't be sufficiently well resourced and simply become a pointless bureaucratic mess.

I very much support the idea of parking attendants in Redditch, but only if they use their powers with a reasonable amount of common sense. I would not like to see them trying to grab every penny they could get, with a result of alienating a lot of people. Issuing notices, rather than fines initially, could be an idea.

I think this would be a good thing.

I feel very strongly that dangerous and inconsiderate parking should be penalised, as that should reduce it considerably. I would like to see increased off street parking spaces made

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available in residential areas, reducing parking on pavements which cause disabled scooters and families with pushchairs to use the road. This again would require education and enforcement.

The longer that drivers are permitted to cause highway safety hazards by their illegal parking on the carriageway, and hazards to pedestrians by their obstructive footway parking, the more these unacceptable anti-social practices will increase. We already have a new generation of drivers who believe that the parking on the footway is the norm, and do so when there is absolutely no reason whatsoever. I warmly welcome the proposal to increase, within the law, parking within Redditch, the sooner the better.

I am writing to stress that I am in favour of decriminalised parking, and hope that it is implemented as soon as possible.

As residents of Redditch, we believe that it would be a good thing to have a bit more control over parking than there is at this moment in time. So we give a resounding yes to the proposed scheme.

I opt to introduce civil parking enforcement in Redditch, and employ parking attendants, who would issue penalty charge notices if vehicles were parked illegally.

An excellent initiative and long overdue. I recently witnessed an elderly lady in a wheelchair having to ride off the pavement because of a selfish motorist's careless parking, half on the pavement and on double yellow lines to boot. The parking situation on Evesham Road near the Co-op store is a nightmare at the best of times. I sincerely hope the law-abiding citizens of Redditch vote unanimously in favour of Civil Parking Enforcement measures.

Next step is for Contractors to be employed. Then they are squeezed because the Council want more and more for less and less (fortnightly bin collections under the 'Environmental' banner - they must think we are stupid). Then the Contractor will be 'paid on results', which will lead to the ludicrous scenarios we often see on the television. All this will be called a 'Service'. I agree that illegal parking should be punished, but don't believe the local Council has either the ability or the incentive to ensure it is policed correctly.

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Not before time. There is far too much illegal parking, a lot of it only 200 yards from the Police Station, and not much further from the Town Hall. What is the point of parking restrictions if they are not enforced – that goes for any legislation and/or rules. Your response would be welcome. Thank you.

Where vehicles park near the Schools, the vehicles should be locked, drivers and passengers out of the vehicle, and the headlights on full beam. That way they won't be parked for hours waiting for School to finish, this works in the states USA.

An excellent idea.

An excellent idea.

Don't let them get away with it!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It's the thin edge of the wedge, and if nothing is done, it'll just get worse and be too late to enforce. Zero tolerance.

Would this only be in the town? As it would be a good idea for this parking enforcement to check tax discs, and also put notices on cars on grass verges up for sale.

Ipsley Street 30mph but the average speed 60mph.

Pavement parking.

Lodge Road, Smallwood – get cars etc., off double yellow lines and pavements, so disabled and pushchairs can walk on pavement, and parking permits are again enforced. (different colour each year so everybody pays).

I support the action regarding parking, and appreciate the concern this presents to the local residents, and will continue to support them in their efforts to reduce the issue it presents.



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Financial Arrangements

The proposed financial arrangements to operate CPE, if adopted, as previously reported, are still applicable. This is where both Worcestershire County Council and Wychavon District Council provide the necessary set up costs. The latter Authority, recovering such costs from income received from operating the Service on this Council's behalf.

P T Liddington
Head of Asset Maintenance

PTL/E312
6 July 2007