

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

17th April 2012

Annual Report on Civil Parking Enforcement

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Brandon Clayton, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Local Environment, and Health; and Councillor Jinny Pearce, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development and Transport
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans, Head of Environment Services

1. SUMMARY

This report provides an annual update on the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that
the report be noted.**

3. BACKGROUND

CPE formally commenced on 31 March 2009, with Wychavon District Council (WDC) undertaking enforcement operations on behalf of this Council.

4. CURRENT SITUATION

- 4.1 As CPE has progressed, the general public have become used to seeing the Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) patrolling the Borough, and more importantly taking the time to park their vehicles in accordance with the current Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).
- 4.2 The formal arrangements, whereby WDC operate CPE on behalf of this Council, the Officer is pleased to report that this has continued to work extremely well. The statement from previous years' Reports, that it is an excellent example of how a successful partnership arrangement between adjacent Local Authorities can work, is reiterated.

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Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)

- 4.3 The applicable tariffs for PCNs are currently set at either £70 or £50, depending on the seriousness of the contravention. If payment is received within 14 days, the fine is automatically reduced by 50%. Non payment of PCNs, will ultimately result, after the issue of statutory reminders, in Bailiffs being engaged to obtain the outstanding monies from the liable owners of the vehicles' responsible.
- 4.4 Contrary to public opinion, the CEOs are not set targets to ensure that a certain number of PCNs are issued to drivers within each financial year.

Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs)

- 4.5 There are currently three CEOs employed by WDC, who patrol all areas of the Borough where TROs exist. The CEOs are managed by WDC's Contract Supervisor, who undertakes regular Performance Management Reviews with the CEOs, to ensure the quality of the Service is maintained. The performance of these Officers has been exceptional.
- 4.6 CPE enables enforcement to be undertaken where drivers contravene TROs. Currently, for other traffic offences, such as causing an obstruction by parking in front of a vehicular crossing, where no TROs exist, then such offences must still be dealt with by the Police. CEOs will report such offences direct to the Police, if they witness these incidents during their daily routes.

Residents' Parking Schemes (RPSs)

- 4.7 Around the Town Centre, there are currently five RPSs in operation. They are in Archer Road, Other Road, Oakly Road, Prospect Hill and Smallwood. Such schemes allow residents to park their vehicles at all times on the highway in the vicinity of their property, in preference to other highway users. For this facility residents pay a small charge for a Permit for their vehicle (see 4.10). In addition, each property is entitled to one Visitors' Permit, at no cost.
- 4.8 These schemes are very advantageous, particularly where the properties are generally of older construction, and do not have off-street car parking facilities. Also, where such properties are located close to the Town Centre, the RPS restricts the parking of vehicles by drivers, who are either visiting the Town Centre for shopping purposes or actually working there.

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- 4.9 If residents feel that they would benefit from the introduction of RPS, they are advised that they should consult with their Local County Councillor in the first instance, who will, if considered appropriate, and meeting the necessary criteria, put forward the request to the County Council's Traffic Management Team. There have been a number of applications made to the County, but to date, unfortunately no additional schemes have been approved and implemented by them.
- 4.10 The cost of an individual Parking Permit is to remain at £10 for 2012/2013. The income received, only covers the administration costs incurred. With CPE now running effectively, there is obviously a greater demand for Permits.
- 4.11 It should be noted that Glover Street which was part of the Smallwood RPS was deleted from the Scheme, effective from 24 November 2011. This action was a result of more than 80% of the residents agreeing to such amendment, after a consultation exercise was undertaken by the County Council. If residents find, that after a period of time this action is not successful, the RPS cannot, under current County Council conditions, be considered for reinstatement for a minimum of 4 years.
- 4.12 From this year, the administration of RPSs is now the responsibility of WDC. Consequently, all Permit applications are undertaken by postal service, thereby avoiding the need for residents to visit the Town Hall in person to collect the Permits. All residents were informed of this new procedure in January, and it appears that such action has been met with overall approval. The cost of the administration service now undertaken by WDC is met by the income received from the Permit applications.

Town Centre Pedestrian Area Traffic Regulation Order

- 4.13 The County Council have now made the above Order, which became fully operational on 3 February. This replaced the existing Order which unfortunately could only be enforced by the Police. The implementation of this Order has resulted in the vehicles no longer parking at will, particularly within Church Green East, except of course Blue Badge Holders parking within the designated disabled bays.

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5. PAY & DISPLAY CAR PARKS

- 5.1 With the introduction of CPE, this Council now has the Service necessary to monitor and enforce Pay & Display Car Parks. Consequently, Members resolved to make the appropriate Orders for the Town Hall and Trescott Road car parks to become Pay & Display facilities, at weekends only. These commenced operation on 9 January 2010.
- 5.2 Unfortunately, the income from these car parks has not reached their predicted targets, which is almost certainly due to the fact, that at present the Trafford Park Retail Area offers free unrestricted parking, and that all Town Centre car parks are currently cheaper than both the Council's car parks. Currently, on average, only 15 and 18 vehicles are using Trescott Road and the Town Hall car parks, respectively, at each weekend.
- 5.3 If a cheaper tariff was to be adopted for these car parks in an effort to encourage usage, there is no guarantee that such actions would prove financially beneficial. Legislation requires that a suitable notice is inserted within the Press, and the existing car park signage must be altered, together with the ticket machines being reset to the new tariffs. The total anticipated cost is likely to be in the region of £2,000, which would then have to be met from additional income from the car parks. If we enter into a price match with the other Town Centre car parks, there is absolutely no guarantee that we would benefit, and therefore it is suggested that the existing tariffs remain. WDC do not charge us for enforcing these two car parks.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Financial Statement for 2010/2011 is shown over. This confirms that income from PCNs from the second full operating year, provided sufficient funds to meet the operating costs.

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Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) Report
(1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011)

Number Issued	4,186
Outstanding	460
Paid	3,321
Cancelled	311
Written Off	94
Part Paid	50
Collection Rate (%)	79.34
Total received (£)	<u>168,855</u>

6.2 It is the normal trend for the issue of PCNs within an Authority to reduce, during the following years after the introduction of CPE. This is obviously due to the public being aware of the consequences of contravening TROs. However, as only operating costs need to be financed, income received for this Financial Year met all such commitments for CPE.

7. WARDS AFFECTED

No direct Ward relevance

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Civil Parking Enforcement Financial Statement (2010-11)

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