

Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 October 2016

Meeting of Working Group to review the Resident's Parking Strategy and new proposal for Dorchester as promoted by Councillors Canning and Biggs

Attending:-

Councillors:- Richard Biggs and Daryl Turner

Officers:- Matthew Piles (Service Director – Economy), Andrew Martin (Service Director – Highways), Simon Gledhill (Network Management Service Manager), Karen Young (Senior Technician Officer Assistant), Martin Farnham (Traffic Engineering Technical Officer), Jess Buckseall (Traffic Engineering Technical Officer) and Dave Northover (Senior Democratic Services Officer). Councillor Canning presented his apologies.

Context

Arising from the meeting of Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 June 2016, the Working Group was convened on the basis that Andy Canning, County Councillor for Linden Lea and Richard Biggs, County Councillor for Dorchester proposed a review of how the resident's parking strategy was being applied in relation to parking needs in Dorchester. The Councillors had submitted a scoping document to officers on how they proposed that the resident's parking needs in Dorchester should be met and what they considered should be done to achieve this. Officers had subsequently given this due consideration.

The Working Group met on 23 August 2016 at County Hall about the proposal for how a new resident's parking strategy for Dorchester might be best achieved and implemented. This was seen to be a part of a proposed countywide review of the strategy, designed to ensure that it remained relevant, fit for purpose and applicable

Summary

- The focus was on the residents' parking strategy for Dorchester and in particular Zone D around Glyde Path Road and North Square
- It was acknowledged that whilst this piece of work was the focus, it had a bearing on other parking considerations throughout Dorchester and potentially affected other resident parking schemes
- Furthermore there would be a need to assess this in conjunction with a review of the whole Countywide Residents' Parking Policy, which had operated for some 20 years and which need to be fit for purpose and applicable to the parking needs which currently took place
- Monmouth Road was particularly congested and parking problems arose there constantly. This was a road which householders had no off street parking of their own, so parking on street was their only option. The congestion in the road was compounded by the fact that this was the first available street outside of the heavily restricted roads of the town centre where it was possible to park unrestricted and so drivers would invariably find this an attractive place to park and was near to town, the station, Brewery Square and the like.

- The closure of the park and Ride had only served to compound the demand for on street parking and would only contribute to greater congestion in the town centre and the demand for more on street parking availability
- The Service Director - Economy considered the need for a sound strategy to be developed from which an effective policy could be applied.
- Some of the practices which the current policy provided for were now outmoded and had discrepancies and inconsistencies. When the policy was drawn up it was generally on the basis of one car per household, which was not the case today
- Notwithstanding the current moratorium on issuing new permits, a particular quick fix solution could be found for Zone D in that there were currently 5 outstanding requests for resident parking permits which could be accommodated by addressing the parking situation at County Hall whereby the members' car park at the front of County Hall was proposed to be opened up to pay and display from 1 November. As part of this, residents with a valid permit would be able to park there as an overspill to the resident parking which already was available on street and it was felt that the 5 additional outstanding requests could be accommodated.
- Resident's parking demand generally operated in the evenings and overnight at which time the supply of spaces was at its greatest so this should not impinge on the finances which might be generated from pay and display
- Officers would write to all the resident permit holders in Zone D to inform them of the relaxation/ flexibly in the parking arrangements at County Hall which could well address some of their issues.
- The Group welcomed this solution and looked forward to the other issues being addressed in due course.

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