

NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ON-STREET PARKING

**17 December 2015 at 1.00pm
Dining Hall, Latton Bush Centre, Harlow, Essex, CM18 7BL**

Executive Members Present:-

Councillor Susan Barker (Uttlesford District Council)
Councillor Anthony Durcan (Harlow District Council)
Councillor Dominic Graham (Colchester Borough Council)
Councillor Eddie Johnson (Essex County Council)
Councillor Robert Mitchell (Braintree District Council)
Councillor Nick Turner (Tendring District Council)
Councillor Gary Waller (Epping Forest District Council)

Also Present: -

Michael Adamson (Parking Partnership)
Jonathan Baker (Colchester Borough Council)
Liz Burr (Essex Highways)
Trevor Degville (Parking Partnership)
Qasim Durrani (Epping Forest District Council)
Joe McGill (Harlow District Council)
Samir Pandya (Braintree District Council)
Andrew Taylor (Uttlesford District Council)
Ian Taylor (Tendring District Council)
Richard Walker (Parking Partnership)
Matthew Young (Colchester Borough Council)

39. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Barker, in respect of being a Member of Essex County Council, declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Councillor Durcan, in respect of being a Member of Essex County Council, declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Councillor Johnson, in respect of being a Member of Harlow District Council, declared a non-pecuniary interest.

40. Have Your Say!

Phyllis Holland

Phyllis Holland attended the North Essex Parking Partnership to have her say, and questioned whether there was any further information or developments regarding the residents parking zone in Northbrooks, Harlow.

In response to the query Councillor Durcan stated that a survey has recently been undertaken in the area with 83 respondents from a total distribution of between 200 and 300 letters. The responses from the survey highlighted concerns about permits, but the majority of residents favoured retaining the current system. Further information will be

provided in due course.

Joe McGill, Harlow District Council, stated that a public meeting on this issue has now been confirmed for 12 January at 7:30pm in the Civic Centre. Members of the Parking Partnership will also be in attendance at this meeting, with the intention that a report will come back to the Parking Partnership Joint Committee meeting in March.

Councillor Janet Whitehouse

Councillor Whitehouse attended the meeting to have her say regarding the Fees and Charges for Residents Parking Visitor Permits. Councillor Whitehouse stated that the proposed 6 hour visitor permit, as recommended in the Fees and Charges report, is too long for many visits, and over the period of a week charges for visitors could accumulate quickly.

In addition Councillor Whitehouse questioned the decision to charge more for residents who use paper permits over the digital equivalent.

Councillor Mitchell thanked Councillor Whitehouse for her contribution to the meeting and invited her to stay for the On-Street Charges item.

41. Minutes

The Committee requested that pending further meetings between the NEPP Officers and Tendring District Council regarding Police Accreditation for Civil Enforcement Officers and the procedure around Travellers and parking enforcement these issues may be included on the March Joint Committee agenda.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee for On Street Parking of 29 October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

42. On Street Charges

Councillor Dominic Graham, Colchester Borough Council, (in respect of being a user of a Residents Parking Zone) declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.

Trevor Degville introduced the On Street Charges report which requests the Joint Committee approve the revisions to the on-street parking tariffs in parking bays in areas of Epping Forest District Council and Uttlesford District Council. In addition the report recommends the introduction of a 6 hour Visitor MiPermit for Resident Parking Zones at a fee of 60p.

Trevor Degville stated that the proposed charges bring the On-Street Charges in-line with nearby car parks. Members from the District Councils included in the report stated that the On-Street Charges had been approved in their areas.

The Committee discussed the introduction of the 6 hour visitor permit, and the concerns around visitors who are either registered carers or relatives. Richard Walker highlighted that for carers there are specific permits for £30 which can be purchased by care providers. Partner authorities are also able to identify local issues and NEPP can provide local solutions and apply discretion for particular cases.

Some members of the Committee questioned whether limiting the cheaper short stay pass to just MiPermit users was correct, however the Parking Partnership Officer stated that the additional charge is due to the cost of producing the paper permits. The policy to charge for the cost of production had been previously agreed as Parking Partnership policy, and assistance over the phone can be provided for online purchases.

Councillor Waller stated that he would speak to Councillor Whitehouse regarding the issues raised earlier in the meeting to see whether there is a solution that could work in and around Epping.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) The revisions to on-street parking tariffs in High Road Loughton and Queens Road Buckhurst Hill in the Epping Forest District area be agreed.
- (b) The revisions to on-street parking tariffs in Abbey Lane, Castle Street, East Street, Gold Street and Museum Street in the Uttlesford District area be agreed.
- (c) The implementation of the change to resident parking permit charges be noted.
- (d) The introduction of a 6 hour Resident Parking Visitor Permit at the fee of 60p through the MiPermit system be agreed.

43. Joint Patrolling Report

Richard Walker introduced the Joint Patrolling report, which included information on the reactive enforcement trial with Tendring District Council. The report requested that the Joint Committee decide whether to cease the trial completely or make the trial a permanent arrangement.

The Committee discussed the contents of the report, particularly the information regarding the number of Penalty Charge Notices that were successful and those that were cancelled. The Committee also noted that at the beginning of the trial there were teething problems, including IT issues, which have now been addressed.

Some members of the Committee highlighted that the ParkSafe Car would provide a service with a higher success rate for Penalty Charge Notices; however it was confirmed that Tendring District Council were not willing to accept the ParkSafe car in the district.

Other members of the Committee highlighted that if Tendring District Council are willing to provide the service for free to the North Essex Parking Partnership then they should be able to continue the trial. The Committee agreed that extending the trial by another six months would provide further evidence to determine whether a trial was successful and enable the Committee to make a decision on whether the trial should be made permanent or ceased.

Members of the Committee also highlighted the need for the NEPP to look at Schools Enforcement across Essex, in particular if anything else can be done to tackle the underlying behaviour and causes of anti-social parking near schools.

RESOLVED that;

- a) Tendring District Council reactive enforcement trial be extended by 6 months to allow for further information to be gathered.
- b) A report including the further information be brought back to the Joint Committee

in due course.

- c) A report on Schools Enforcement across the North Essex Parking Partnership be brought to the March meeting.

44. High Road Loughton Pay and Display Bays

Trevor Degville introduced a report on introducing pay and display bays into three additional places in High Road Loughton.

Trevor Degville stated that the site had previously had a traffic order in place for the pay and display bays in 2008, however this has expired and therefore a notice of intention would be required.

The Committee heard that the member for Epping Forest District Council was in favour of the proposal for the Pay and Display Bays on the High Road Loughton.

RESOLVED that the proposal to advertise a Notice of Intention to introduce pay and display into three additional places in High Road Loughton be approved.

45. Urgent Item – River Mill School

The Chairman of the Joint Committee accepted a request made by Harlow District Council representatives for an urgent item to be discussed on implementing a Temporary Traffic Order outside Pemberley Academy.

Joe McGill stated that a new school had been created on the site of a former adult education centre in Harlow. As this was not a new build school, this has not gone through the usual planning process where a Traffic Regulation Order would have been implemented outside the school. This has led to a significant problem of parking on the pavements. If agreed by the Committee a temporary traffic order would be required, consisting of double yellow lines outside the school, until a consultation can be conducted with residents of the area. Once this has been completed, a formal TRO will be submitted to the NEPP meeting in March.

The Committee requested that the member from Essex County Council, highlight the issue of new schools and TROs with the relevant Cabinet member.

RESOLVED that a Temporary Traffic Order be approved outside of Pemberley Academy, Harlow.

46. NEPP Financial Reserves Report

Richard Walker introduced the North Essex Parking Partnership Reserves report which requests the committee decide whether to commit expenditure for best achievement of its priorities.

Richard Walker highlighted that the report included proposals to invest in handheld devices and body cameras for Civil Enforcement Officers, as well as transferring additional funds for Traffic Regulation Orders. Richard Walker also commented on the Bay Sensor Trial, which provides information on when certain parking spaces are empty. Richard Walker stated that this may provide future income for the Parking Partnership when systems built into cars are able to direct motorists to empty car

parking spaces.

Committee members supported the recommendations provided in the report, and suggested that a reserve just for handheld computers be created. This would ensure that in future the Partnership would have a dedicated reserve to replace old technology and provide Civil Enforcement Officers with the tools for the job.

The Committee also discussed whether at a future meeting the number of Traffic Regulation Order schemes that are permitted to be recommended would have to be reduced from the current six currently allowed. Parking Partnership officers stated that there are no current plans for this to occur as officers are happy with the current scheme, but this may have to be reviewed in due course.

RESOLVED that;

- a) The Start-up fund be used to fund body warn video for Civil Enforcement Officers, and for a Bay Sensor Trial
- b) A commitment for Civil Enforcement Officer Handheld computers and additional funds for Traffic Regulation Orders be transferred from the Civil Parking Reserve Closing Balance

47. North Essex Parking Partnership Financial Update Period 8

Richard Walker introduced the North Essex Parking Partnership financial update for Period 8. The report was distributed to members prior to the meeting and requests that the information presented be noted.

Richard Walker stated that the forecast for the end of the year after the confirmation of Period 8 is for the On-Street budget to be running a small surplus towards the end of the year. Richard Walker also highlighted that the non-direct costs within the On-Street budget are now split out.

Councillor Barker requested that the terminology used within the tables be improved to clarify whether the information provided related to gross profit or net profit.

RESOLVED that the North Essex Parking Partnership Financial Update Period 8 be noted.

48. Forward Plan 2016/17

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan for 2016/17 be approved.

49. Forward Plan

Councillor Mitchell introduced the Forward Plan for 2015/16, and highlighted that the forward plan includes the proposal to change the date of the next meeting to 17 March 2016.

RESOLVED that;

- a) The next meeting of the North Essex Parking Partnership changed to the 17 March 2016.

b) The forward plan be noted.