

**NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP
JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ON-STREET PARKING**

**27 October 2022 at 1.00pm
Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way, Harlow CM18 7BL.**

Members Present:

Councillor Richard van Dulken (Braintree District Council)
Councillor Richard Freeman (Uttlesford District Council)
Councillor Alastair Gunn (Harlow District Council)
Councillor Dan Land (Essex County Council)
Councillor Alex Porter (Tendring District Council)

Substitutions:

There were no substitutions at the meeting.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from
Councillor Kane (Epping Forest) and
Councillor Goss (Colchester Borough Council)

Also Present:

Richard Walker (Parking Partnership)
Jason Butcher (Parking Partnership)
Danielle Northcott (Parking Partnership)
Jake England (Parking Partnership)
Amelia Hoke (Epping Forest District Council)
Robert Carmichael (Colchester Borough Council)
Linda Howells (Uttlesford District Council)
Michael Kelly (Harlow District Council)
Ian Taylor (Tendring District Council)

129. Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Dan Land was appointed Chairman of the Joint Committee.

130. Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Sam Kane was re-appointed Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee.

131. Have Your Say

There were no speakers for the general Have Your Say section. Two speakers addressed the Committee ahead of the Agenda Items relevant to their points.

132. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

133. Financial Update

Richard Walker, Group Manager – Parking Partnership drew the Committees attention to the report and outlined the key features which included the risks of heavy winter weather which would not allow the authority to serve penalty charge notices which was the biggest income that the partnership received. It was further noted that the recruitment of Civil Enforcement Officers had taken place and that the Partnership continued to receive funding from residents parking permits. It was noted in the report that there was a small surplus within the budget and concluded that the item was for noting only.

In response to questions from Members the Group Manager – Parking Partnership responded that Penalty Charge Notices were included within the financial report as it was an income for the Partnership but could not be budgeted against due to the possible volatility of changes and was only one of four income streams that the partnership had and confirmed that there was not a target for Penalty Charge Notices. In response to further questions from the Committee the previous surplus from the Partnership had been transferred to Essex County Council and that the Parking Partnership had to bid for spending on the surplus. It was noted that going forward 55% of any surplus would be kept by Essex County Council with 45% kept by the NEPP. It was noted by a Client Officer that the TRO fund was not as clear as it could have been and it was requested that the Group Manager – Parking Partnership bring back further information on this. the Group Manager – Parking Partnership agreed to produce a further background paper for Client Officers and Members.

The Group Manager – Parking Partnership responded to further questions from the Committee on issues including that the budget for off street parking was ring-fenced separately from this Joint Committee for on-street parking, and that where the NEPP had installed electric vehicle charging points that were used by Colchester Borough Council fleet vehicles, the cost of that electricity would be paid by them.

The item was noted by the Committee.

134. North Essex Parking Partnership Update

The Group Manager- Parking Partnership presented the report to the Committee which outlined that a new agreement was now in place at the strategic level but that there needed to be further agreement on the policies and delegations that the partnership should have. The Committee heard that the proposal before them would adopt all the previous policies and delegations from the previous agreement and that if Members did wish to review any of the policies that these could be put forward for assessment. The Group Manager -Parking Partnership concluded that the recommendation was to agree the basis on which the partnership will operate, including deciding to continue policies and delegations to operate as before, as listed in the appendix.

Members of the Committee discussed the report with some Members raising concern that the proposal before the Committee was legal and that it was not possible to agree all the policies and delegations as previously agreed as they had not all been included within the report. Further to this there was concern over how the NEPP had been continuing to function in the interregnum period when the agreement had run out.

The Group Manager – Parking Partnership responded to the concerns and questions raised explaining that the rationale behind not including all the policies was to try and ensure that Committee time was used most efficiently as it could become a page turning exercise agreeing all policies and previous delegations. It was noted that some of this work could be undertaken by the Client Officer Panel which could look through policies that were referred to them from the Committee for review.

Members of the Committee felt that not all policies should be agreed as a block from the previous agreement and that they should be reviewed properly before being put into the new agreement and put into operational use.

Members of the Committee debated the report with members expressing concern at agreeing the proposal without further scrutiny and noted that the Essex County Council Officer was not present at the meeting so could not respond themselves but there was concern that Essex County Council had not completed their function to the review the partnership to its fullest extent and that frustration surrounding this was clear.

Members felt that there was work to be done before the policies could be agreed and that the policies and delegations should be reviewed before being adopted by the Committee. Members continued to discuss issues surrounding other elements in the report including the transfer of functions relating to discretionary disabled bays and the amount of blue badge fraud that was taking place.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee agree to evaluate the policies and delegations of the NEPP with the Client Officer Group meeting to review the policies and delegations in detail and bring forward a report recommending which policies should be adopted or removed and that this report is brought to the next available meeting. To continue to operate under existing policies in the meantime.

135. Purlieu Way and Harewood Hill Update Report

From the 'Have Your Say' chair, Richard Risdon addressed the Committee and spoke to fact that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) received 79% support in the local community and that another survey was out of the question. The speaker elaborated that the obstructive parking had become worse during their 50 years of using the road, that delivery vehicles were causing significant issues parking on pavements and that it was a mistake that a TRO was not applied in 2007. The Committee heard that deferring the decision would be unlikely to change the situation and was likely to get worse. The speaker concluded by asking that single yellow lines be implemented.

Following this address, Jason Butcher, Group Development Manager presented the report to the Committee regarding Purlieu Way and Harewood Hill noting the status of the proposal and the decisions made at previous meetings as detailed in the report. The Group Development Manger outlined that the Committee were requested to note the actions of the NEPP and the proposed restrictions and that the NEPP Officers would continue to Monitor the situation and would then consider determining the future parking demands in April 2023.

The Joint Committee discussed the issues surrounding the use of single and double and yellow lines though an example in Uttlesford where there was a significant impact from Stanstead airport and how this had been addressed through a TRO. The Committee discussed whether the proposed use of single yellow lines could be agreed on a temporary basis to gather data. Members discussed the proposal including the role of decision making including the impact of not taking a decision and that Members were not elected to do nothing.

The Group Manager – Parking Partnership advised that the scheme had already been through the Committee process and had been approved to be advertised but had received a large number of objections with sufficient weight from both the road and nearby Harewood Hill and that the weight of objections was more than could be dealt with under delegated powers.

Amelia Hoke (Epping Forest District Council) advised the panel that from Epping Forest District Council's perspective was that as there was support from the ward member and the division member that the committee revert to the October 2020 decision for the single yellow lines and 1 hour parking restriction.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee agreed to introduce a single yellow line 1 hour parking restriction on both Purlieu Way and Harwood Hill under a temporary trial period of 18 months.

136. Traffic Regulation Order Update and Application Decision Report

The Group Development Manager – Parking Partnership presented the report to the Committee and outlined that the report contained the proposed schemes and their recommendations for each of the authority areas.

The Chair of the meeting detailed the different authorities and asked for the Committees views on the different schemes.

John Akker of West Mersea Town Council addressed the Committee from the 'Have Your Say' chair, outlining that a working party that had been set up by the Town Council and the effective collaboration from the NEPP working on issues and commented that the experimental TRO for red lines was not favoured by the community especially where there were large boats being transported. The Joint Committee heard that this needed to be balanced with the tourism associated in the area which attracted 30,000 people every year and the needs of local residents. It was noted that West Mersea had completed a traffic survey resulting in an application for a scheme which had been rejected, as such the speaker asked that the application instead be deferred so that further conversations could take place between Colchester Borough Council, the NEPP and West Mersea Town Council.

Following this address, the Group Manager – Parking Partnership responded to Members questions and outlined that the off street car parking was not within this Committee's remit, however there is still scope for changes to be brought forward and as the sites were linked to items T23325011 and T20197422.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following items for consideration:

- That T12367746, Stone Close, Braintree (Braintree District Council) decision be deferred to the December meeting as there was currently no provisional decision available.
- That T23325011 Coast Road, Victoria Esplanade and associated roads, West Mersea (Colchester Borough Council) and T20197422 Victoria Esplanade, West Mersea be deferred following the representation from John Akker.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee accepts the provisional decisions as detailed in the report apart from the following amendments:

- That T12367746, Stone Close, Braintree (Braintree District Council) decision be deferred to the December meeting as there was currently no provisional decision available.
- That T23325011 Coast Road, Victoria Esplanade and associated roads, West Mersea (Colchester Borough Council) and T20197422 Victoria Esplanade, West Mersea be deferred following the representation from John Akker.

137. North Essex Parking Partnership Project Update

Danielle Northcott, Project Manager – Parking Partnership presented the report and outlined that there were no decisions required for the report. The Committee heard from Linda Howells (Uttlesford District Council) that there was work to be done and further issues to address as there had been some unexpected issues and there were still issues with the medieval streets that had limited parking.

The Project Manager – Parking Partnership continued by outlining that the unprogrammed plans were still funded.

The item was noted by the Committee.

138. Obstructive Parking

In a brief verbal update, the Group Manager – Parking Partnership confirmed that there had been no further news regarding Obstructive Parking from Government and there had been no progress on any legislation, but it was noted that if there was a ban on parking on footways this would have a significant impact.

139. Forward Plan 2022-23

Robert Carmichael, Clerk to the Joint Committee, presented the workplan to the committee noting the contents of the meetings, dates and venues as previously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Joint Committee notes and approves the North Essex Parking Partnership Forward Plan for 2022-23.