
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SCRUTINY	AGENDA ITEM: 5
DATE OF MEETING:	16th February 2004	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Councillor Harrington	DOC: CarparkingBV.doc
SUBJECT:	CAR PARKING STUDY – INITIAL FEEDBACK	REF: myfiles/committees/communityscrutiny/carparkingstudyfeedback.doc
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: G

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That terms of reference and a programme of action be agreed.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To report back on the initial consultations on scoping the proposed car parking study.

3.0 Content

3.1 At its meeting on 1st December the Committee in considering its future work programme agreed to investigate aspects of off street car parking in the district with a view to setting the terms of reference for the study at this meeting. (Minute CYS/40 refers)

3.2 On 9th January, invitations were dispatched to all Members, senior managers, adjacent local authorities and the County Council, Parish Councils, the local Crime and Disorder Partnership, Derbyshire Chamber, Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC), Market Initiatives and SLM, and Sainsburys, Somerfields and the Tamworth Co-operative. Whilst this list was not exhaustive, it was felt that this initial consultation would provide for a cross section of different aspects and views to allow consideration of the terms of reference for any future study. Consultees were asked for their views on the relevant issues, including levels of provision, sustainable transport, community safety, links to the local economy, charging regimes, use of people with disabilities and so forth. A closing date for responses was set for 30th January 2004.

3.3 A summary of the responses to date, including a comment from a member of the public who attended a Parish Council Meeting, are outlined in the attached Annexe.

3.4 East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) and North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) have recently undertaken reviews of car parking in their respective

Districts. ESBC Scrutiny Panel's wide ranging review encompassed the Council's policy role, administration of charges and fines, enforcement, quality and appearance, costs, and concluded with a series of recommendations to improve the service. NWLDC, following a feasibility study undertaken by District Audit, is presently considering the introduction of a Charging Regime with recommendations for its introduction to be considered at full Council towards the end of February.

- 3.5 The involvement of Derbyshire County Council, as the local highway authority, will be crucial particularly in respect of on street parking issues, regulation and enforcement, and a representative has been invited to the meeting
- 3.6 A range of comments have been made by several Parish Councils, highlighting particular problems relative to their own localities although common is the general shortage of off street places, indiscriminate on street parking, policing of disabled spaces and, generally are not in favour of imposing charging regimes.
- 3.7 Members too comment on specifics to their wards, although raise general issues of sustainability, relationship to public transport, levels of provision, enforcement and the question of charges (generally opposition).
- 3.8 The Leisure Centre Manager points out the difficulties of access to users of the Leisure Centre and that a form of refundable charging should be considered. The Housing Manager points out the problems relating to Council Estates, funding issues and the state of many of such estate's off road car parks. The Economic Development Manager raises the possible economic impact of charging but suggests that this may need to be tested if demonstrable benefits can be delivered. The CVS would like to see the free parking maintained but support additional Leisure Centre and disabled spaces and enforcement of their use. They also comment on the difficulties faced by South Derbyshire residents in parking at Burton Hospital.
- 3.9 Individual replies refer to alternative on street parking methods, use of traffic wardens to enforce regulation and the suggestion of utilising new parking/licensing taxes/grants to provide funds for additional off street parking in all areas.
- 3.10 No response has been received from the limited private sector consultees, but it is considered important the local private sector are engaged, particularly in respect of those businesses that operate large car parks.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None arising from this report

5.0 Background Papers

Community Scrutiny Reports and responses to Consultation letter of 9-01-04

Car Parking Study Summary of Responses received

Respondent Councils	Comments
Derbyshire County Council	Will endeavour to send a representative to the meeting.
East Staffs Borough Council	A review has just been completed. It included such aspects as the Council's policy role, administration of charges and fines, patrolling and enforcement, maintenance, quality and appearance, revenue and costs, parking for the disabled, sustainable transport and Public Feedback.
North West Leicestershire District Council	In response to financial needs, a feasibility study has been undertaken with a view to introducing a charging regime in the near future.
Aston on Trent Parish Council	Problems on Weston Road outside the village shop and at the school in Long Croft are highlighted.
Castle Gresley Parish council	A shortage of off street parking. Consider that there is adequate disabled parking in Swadincote but concerned at its misuse.
Coton in the Elms Parish Council	An examination of ways to tackle indiscriminate parking on grass verges. Poor state of the Community centre car park and a request for this Council's help to resurface.
Etwall Parish Council	Comments on the increasing pressures placed by sixth form pupils at John Port on the parking situation in the village and that full cognisance is taken of such matters in determining planning applications.
Netherseale Parish Council	Concern that on street parking causes obstruction to emergency vehicles and access generally, off road parking should be provided to Council properties on Main Street, and grassed verges on Hawthorn Avenue should be tarmacadamed to provide proper off street parking.
Repton Parish Council	More sites should be found to address the inadequate parking provision in the village but no charging regime be introduced.
Councillors	
Cllr J Harrison	Melbourne has increasing problems of on street parking particularly in the centre, Derby Road, Castle Street and the older areas of North Street, South Street and Alma Street. The main car parks are also operating near their capacity.
Cllr J Wilkins	Considers that car parks in Swadincote are operating close to their full capacity but more car parks poses sustainability problems as it encourages more traffic; balance right for disabled parking but access is not good in the town centre; opposes charging in almost all circumstances; poses the question as to whether the study is premature in view of the Morrison's proposal and associated Town Centre Study.
Cllr Carroll	On street parking is a particular problem in Melbourne but limited opportunity to improve although resident permits should be pursued. Improved bus services to railway stations may improve sustainable transport. Use of the car park in High Street raises community safety issues. Problems of tourism parking in the summer at Melbourne Hall. Charging would be unfavourably regarded by the local business community. Disabled spaces considered adequate bus subject to misuse.

Respondent	Comments
Cllr G Martin	The levels of provision, charging policy and regimes, and access for the disabled and elderly should all be reviewed.
Cllr J Bladon	Ensure that there is inadequate provision across the whole district to meet all needs; our neighbouring districts charge so should we follow suit and in what areas of need ?; ensure that adequate security is provided to those car parks in 24hr use; and could better public transport provision take pressure off existing car parks ?
Cllr J Stone	Concern expressed about access to larger vehicles to some narrow streets where on street parking causes problems. More land should be set aside for off street parking. Presently against parking charges and considers that Swadlincote may gain from adjacent areas increasing or introducing parking charges. May need re-considering later once S106 monies are reduced as development around Swadlincote reduces such availability. Some car parks are poorly maintained, badly littered and have poor lighting. There should be adequate provision of disabled bays with wheelchair access. Civic Way bus stops should have pull in bays to maintain traffic flow.
Officers	
Policy & Best Value Manager	The study needs to be approached from the perspective of the Council's new Corporate Plan - all of the Key Aims appear to be relevant to the wider consideration of car parking issues. The Plan also contains a number of milestones and targets which might have a bearing (directly or indirectly) on the study. I am delighted with the inclusive approach adopted by the Community Scrutiny Committee in determining the terms of reference of the study.
Leisure Centre Manager	Considers that there are not enough spaces for leisure centre users at peak times. Charging regime on part of the main car park could be introduced with leisure centre users being re-imbursed at the centre.
Housing Manager	There are a number of housing areas which have critical parking problems some of which involve HRA land or adopted highways. Complexity is added by the sale of Right to Buys which raises the issue of why should the HRA have to pick up any improvement bill. There are also 62 garage sites the vast majority of which are in poor condition although, with investment, they present an opportunity to improve conditions where there is a demand.
Economic Development Manager	Free car parking is often referred to as one of the advantages that Swadlincote has to offer. It may be appropriate for a survey to be undertaken to test this particularly if additional benefits can be demonstrated. The cost of imposing, enforcing and monitoring charges is likely to take up a large proportion of the income.
Community & Leisure Development Manager	Consideration should be given to the potential income that could be invested into Neighbourhood Wardens, CCTV or Town Centre Wardens.
CVS	Free car parking should be maintained. Additional car parks needed for Leisure Centre. More disabled spaces and enforcement of their use. CVS car park in a poor state as not allowed to have tarmac. South Derbyshire residents experiencing parking difficulties at Burton Hospital.

Respondent	Comments
<p>Individuals</p> <p>Mrs Sheila Jackson (Castle Gresley)</p>	<p>The two car parks in Castle Gresley are unsecured and poorly maintained and are subject to vandalism. For those areas where there is a lot of terraced property without off street parking, suggests using the Derby model of parking on alternate sides of the streets on alternate days. Suggests a study of car sharing schemes and/or better public/community transport. Use should be made of traffic wardens to enforce provision in the town centre. Considers some of the disabled provision to be in the wrong places and should be closer to the amenities required.</p>
<p>Mr G Baker (Ticknall)</p>	<p>Makes several suggestions to reduce on street parking viz: additional tax/licence fee charge to park on street to provide additional funds for the provision of additional off street parking; provision of a grant scheme to provide landowners the incentive to provide off street parking; the setting of targets to reduce on street parking by 10% per annum, requires baseline assessment of vehicle parking and subsequent monitoring.</p>

