

TITLE OF REPORT: KNEBORTH PARKING REVIEW

REPORT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, HOUSING AND ENTERPRISE

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report advises the committee and seek its views on progress with the Knebworth Parking Review. This includes an update on the St Martin's Road Car Park and findings from the recent public consultation on on-street parking options in the village.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This Report does not contain a key decision and does not appear on the forward plan.

3. BACKGROUND

St Martins Road Car Park

- 3.1 The St Martins Road car park is an ideal location for offering short stay parking to allow customers to park and use the local shops and services. The car park is currently free and allows parking without restriction. The car park is frequently used for medium to long stay, restricting the availability of spaces for those who wish to use local shops and services and putting pressure on limited on-street parking space.
- 3.2 A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that creates a short stay pay and display car park was published earlier this year. Having considered all objections the TRO has been made and is in the process of being implemented. It will ensure a better turnover of spaces and therefore parking for those wishing to shop or use village services.
- 3.3 Following consultation with the Knebworth Parking Investigation Group (KPIG) a charging tariff was agreed to meet all short to medium stay parking needs for village visitors. Charges are as follows:

Up to 30 minutes 20p
Up to 1 hour 50p
Up to 2 hours £1.00
Up to 3 hours £2.00
Up to 4 hours £4.00 (4 hours to be maximum stay, no return in 2 hours)

Wider Village Parking Review

- 3.4 Following extensive background survey work last year, a number of options for parking management schemes in the village were presented to 590 residential homes and approximately 50 local businesses for consultation in early July 2011.
- 3.5 Various areas of the village were consulted with options relevant to their circumstances and specific parking issues. A full summary of the findings of this consultation can be seen in Appendix 1.

4. ISSUES

St Martins Road Car Park

- 4.1 As a result of concerns raised about displacement of long stay parking it has also been agreed with KPIG that a limited number (max. 10) of all day parking permits be sold for the car park whilst other long stay car park opportunities are being pursued.
- 4.2 An Amendment TRO will be published for the parking permits as well as adding CO-OP's car park to NHDC's car park. This final issue is subject to finalising detailed discussions with CO-OP which includes a parking fee rebate scheme with CO-OP.
- 4.3 Investigations with landowners for two off-street long stay car parks remain ongoing. Any progress will be reported orally to the Committee.

Wider Village Parking Review

- 4.4 The wider village parking consultation has resulted in a number of issues that need to be considered. The nature of the non-resident parking issue within the village means that a parking intervention at one location may have significant displacement effect elsewhere.
- 4.5 Appendix 1 shows that in some places there is a very clear preference for a proposed option e.g. Park Lane and Deards Wood. In other locations however the preference is not clear especially when considered across a wider area.
- 4.6 The consultation process was limited on the amount of information included on possible options and, especially, the implications for the wider area. Several comments pointed to the lack of plans available to view.
- 4.7 It is therefore proposed that NHDC will draw up a number of option plans showing how parking will be managed in the context of the whole village. These will be based on the outcome of the consultation and following discussions with KPIG. These plans will be made available for anyone in the village to view and comment on at a manned exhibition (probably in the Village Hall) along with unmanned (Library and website).
- 4.8 At this stage it is anticipated that the exhibition plan options will fall into three categories:
 - a. 'Light touch' i.e. retaining non-resident parking where it is safe to do so but favouring resident amenity where necessary
 - b. Favouring residents and removing rail commuters from most areas but seeking to assist village employees
 - c. A variation on b. but charging commuters to park in locations where it will not conflict with residents on the basis that income will help fund village parking facilities

- 4.9 Comments on the proposals would be encouraged and a decision on how to proceed would be made in light of the exhibited proposals and the recent consultation responses.
- 4.10 The Committee's views on the suggested way forward would be welcomed.
- 4.11 Any exhibition would take place later in Autumn 2011 with a view to agreeing final proposals before Christmas. Draft TROs would then be published in early 2012 with a view to finalising and implementing in early Spring 2012.
- 4.12 Any proposals would need to be agreed in principle by Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Constabulary before proceeding to TRO stage.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are considered to be no direct legal implications arising from this report. Any changes in this position will be reported verbally to the Committee.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Should the Committee be minded not to agree the proposed way forward there is a danger that the Knebworth parking review will be delayed beyond the timescales set out in 4.11.
- 6.2 Implementation of charging in St Martins car park was agreed by Cabinet on 26th January 2010, with an income target of £28,000 in 2011/12. Any delay in implementation of parking charges in Knebworth may effect the achievement of the income target for financial year 2012/13.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Work on the proposed plans will be undertaken from existing staff resources.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND MEMBERS

- 8.1. The Cabinet Member for Transport has been consulted on the outcome of the consultation and plans going forward. KPIG have also been regularly consulted and its membership includes the Portfolio holder as well as local Parish, District and County Councillors along with other interested individuals.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The Committee considers and agrees the proposed way forward and supports the public exhibition with a view to demonstrating options on a wider area basis.
- 9.2 The Transport Policy Officer updates the Committee on progress with this project at future meetings.

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Knebworth Parking Management Options, Report on Local Consultation Exercise.

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14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 None.