

CABINET

13 September 2022

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA ITEM 13 - PROPOSED INCREASE IN CAR PARKING TARIFFS 2022-23

UNDER SECTION 5 – CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

1. At para 5.2, reference is made to providing an update to Cabinet regarding comments received from the mentioned external organisations. These are summarised as follows:

Hitchin

- (i) No comments have been received from the Hitchin Area Committee
- (ii) No comments have been received from Hitchin Bid

Letchworth:

- (iii) No comments have been received from the Letchworth Area Committee
- (iv) No comments have been received from Letchworth Bid

Royston:

- (v) The chair of Royston Area Committee has raised concerns regarding the timing of the consultation in not giving area committees an opportunity to discuss and comment at their meetings and request that Cabinet defer the item until local Councillors have been able to discuss and comment. The full note is attached at Appendix 1 to this addendum report as requested by the Chair.
- (vi) A further note from County Cllr Fiona Hill for Royston East and Ernie has been received endorsing the objection and points submitted by the Chair of Royston Committee and is attached at Appendix 2 to this addendum report as requested by Cllr Hill.
- (vii) The Royston Town Council discussed the proposals at the Royston Town Council Full Council Meeting on 12 September and have provided the following statement:

'Members of Royston Town Council strongly objected to any increases in parking in Royston. They also requested that the 1 hour parking charge for Princes Mews car park is reduced to 60p per hour in line with the other car parks in Royston'.

- (viii) RoystonFirst Bid have submitted the following comments:

‘Overall, we support narrowing the difference between 1hr and 2hr charge in hopes it will encourage visitors to stay longer in the town and enjoy cafes, shops and restaurants. The BID is against the plan introduction of visitors needing to take a ticket from the machine to "prove" participation in free after 3.

We would like the machines to allow for a tear off section on car park tickets (as Princes Mews car park used to do for Morrisons) on tickets so businesses in the town can operate an hour's free parking reimbursement scheme, underwritten by Royston First. Longer term, Royston First would consider reducing the scope of Free After 3 to those car parks outside of the immediate town centre’

Knebworth

- (ix) No comments have been received from Southern Rural Committee.
 - (x) The Knebworth Parish Council have made no comment on the proposed tariff increases; however, the Parish Council would like to subsidise the first 30mins tariff band for as free parking to the customer within St Martins Car Park to support local businesses. They are of the view that Knebworth businesses suffered during the pandemic, which was exacerbated by the removal of a significant number of on street car parking spaces by Herts County Council to widen the footpaths for social distancing purposes where businesses lost trade because deliveries could not be made and people chose to go elsewhere.
2. The request at (ix above) accords section 8.2 of the Cabinet Report regarding off peak parking incentives and the proposed requirement for customers to obtain a ticket for the duration of their parking session to enable the Council to monitor usage and be more transparent in terms of agreeing subsidised parking requests.

Delegated power was granted by Cabinet at its meeting in March 2021 to the Service Directors – Regulatory and Resources in consultation with the Executive Members and Deputy for Planning and Transport and for Finance and IT to consider and agree requests for subsidised parking within the council operated car parks.

The above request will require amendment to the relevant Traffic Regulation Order.

3. Copies of correspondence received has been seen by the Executive Member and Deputy and are available on request.

CONTACT OFFICERS

Report author

Louise Symes, Strategic Planning and Projects Manager
Ext 4359 louise.symes@north-herts.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Email from chair of Royston and District Area Committee

From: Cllr Tony Hunter <Tony.Hunter@north-herts.gov.uk>

Sent: 13 September 2022 09:28

To: James Lovegrove <James.Lovegrove@north-herts.gov.uk>; Louise Symes <Louise.Symes@north-herts.gov.uk>

Subject: Cabinet tonight

Dear James

Please record and present this email to Cabinet tonight.

Regrettably, this is the second year that inflationary parking increases have been suggested without an opportunity for Councillors to discuss and comment at Area Committee.

Currently our next meeting is October the 12th and car parking charges are a very emotive issue in Royston..

I would ask Cabinet to defer this item until local Councillors have been able to discuss and comment.

Considering the current climate and hardship I personally do not believe a blanket increase is in the best interest of our residents.

Kind regards.

Tony Hunter.

Chairman Royston and District Area Committee.

Appendix 2 – Email from County Cllr Fiona Hill – for Royston East and Ermie

From: Fiona Hill <Fiona.Hill@hertfordshire.gov.uk>

Sent: 13 September 2022 15:03

To: Louise Symes <Louise.Symes@north-herts.gov.uk>; James Lovegrove <James.Lovegrove@north-herts.gov.uk>; Committee.Services <Committee.Services@north-herts.gov.uk>

Cc: Ian Fullstone <Ian.Fullstone@north-herts.gov.uk>; Cllr Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg <Elizabeth.Dennis-Harburg@north-herts.gov.uk>; Cllr Ruth Brown <Ruth.Brown@north-herts.gov.uk>; Cllr Claire Strong <Claire.Strong@north-herts.gov.uk>; Cllr Ian Moody <Ian.Moody@north-herts.gov.uk>; Cllr Tony Hunter <Tony.Hunter@north-herts.gov.uk>

Subject: CABINET - TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2022 - ITEM 13 PROPOSED INCREASE IN PARKING TARIFFS

Dear Louise,

I hope you are well.

I fully endorse the objections and points submitted to the District Council, by the Chairman of Royston and District Committee and Royston Town Council, with regard to the proposed increases in car parking charges for Royston, due for discussion at the NHC Cabinet meeting this evening.

I am extremely disappointed that, again, these proposals are on the Cabinet agenda before there has been any formal opportunity for the local District Councillors, who sit on the Royston and District Committee, to discuss and comment on the proposals. I strongly object to any increases in parking, which I do not feel are appropriate at this very difficult time, in the current climate of hardship for many residents. I would like to request that Cabinet defers any decision on parking increases until there has been the opportunity for wider debate at the next Royston and District Committee meeting.

Please include my objection to the proposed increases in parking, in Royston, as my submission in the consultation process and ensure my comments are presented and recorded at the Cabinet meeting this evening.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona

Fiona Hill
County Councillor for Royston East and Ermie