

COUNCIL – 28 June 2007

AMENDMENT TO OFF STREET PARKING PLACES ORDER 2007

Report of the Head of Business Development

Statutory Powers: Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, s44 Control of Off Street Parking (England and Wales) Order 1978.

Financial Implications: None in terms of consultation on an amendment other than advertising costs which is within budget.

Purpose

To consider representations made in respect to an amendment to the Off Street Parking Places Order 2007.

The Car Parks service contributes to the following Council priorities:

- CP2: Create the conditions for the growth and maintenance of quality economic activity.
- CP5: Working with others to improve access to key services.
- CP6: Improve core service performance in a cost effective way.

Recommendations

That officers be instructed to confirm the Order accordingly and to publicise the confirmation in accordance with statutory requirements, with the Order to come into effect on 2nd July 2007.

Background

1. On the 5th April 2007 the Executive considered a report that outlined issues that related to the Totnes Southern Area development. The issues related to the displacement of holders of annual car parking permits due to the development.
2. To assist residents parking in this area Members agreed to altering the status of Heaths car park and that of The Nursery car park in Totnes. This would mean changing Heaths Nursery car park into a Long Stay car park where by permit holders would then benefit from having a more open facility for overnight parking. Consequently The Nursery car park could be designated as a Short Stay (4 hour maximum stay) car park instead of what it is currently which is Long Stay.
3. The suggested proposal was therefore to enable holders of Annual Residents Permits to park in Heaths Nursery car park, Totnes (as it is currently designated a Short Stay car park, this is not permitted under the current Off Street Parking Places Order). The Nursery Car Park, Totnes, would then be changed from its current state as a Long Stay car park to a Short Stay (4 hour maximum stay) car park. Pay and display charges would be changed to those currently charged in the short stay car park, Heaths Nursery.

4. By swapping the use of these two car parks, the Annual Permit holders would have access to a superior parking area and making The Nursery a Short Stay car park would help towards making the area safer in that it may lead to a higher footfall of customers during the day. Also, as there are more spaces in The Nursery, utilising them as Short Stay would create a higher turnover of spaces available for Short Stay users.
5. Members have already agreed that the 2007 Off Street Parking Places Order will introduce a £1 overnight charge in Heaths Nursery car park which may free up spaces during the evening for Annual Permit holders. This has already been agreed and will be implemented in Heaths Nursery and Steamer Quay car parks in Totnes under the new Off Street Order which takes effect on 25th March 2007. Members will be aware that overnight charging has been in place in Victoria Street car park, Totnes, for the past two years.
6. Members subsequently agreed to formally consult by means of advertising the proposed changes. The views expressed by interested parties would then be reported back to the full Council for their consideration. It would then be resolved to amend or not the Off Street Parking Places Order (Amendment 2007).

Outcome of consultation

7. There have been no subsequent formal responses received within the prescribed period. This therefore suggests that there is support for the proposed changes.
8. It is therefore recommended to members that the amendment to the Order is accordingly confirmed and publicised in accordance with statutory requirements, with the Order to come into effect on 2nd July 2007.

Risk Assessment

Risk	Mitigation
The Nursery car park (proposed to become Short Stay) will be further away from the town by a few minutes and shoppers may not wish to use it.	Distance involved is negligible and there will continue to be Disabled bays in Heaths Nursery available to Blue Badge holders.
Heaths Nursery may become full.	Permits do not guarantee a space for holders, however this course of action would provide more suitable parking for Permit holders than currently exists.
Potential loss of income due to The Nursery's Short Stay tariff being higher than the Long Stay Heaths Nursery car park nearer to town.	<p>The Nursery car park has more bays than Heaths Nursery and as it will be a Short Stay car park, the turnover of customers should be greater than that of a Long Stay car park. This should balance out the difference in charges.</p> <p>Also, as Heaths Nursery will become Long Stay, there will be less spaces available for short stay customers so parking there may not be an option for them.</p>

Permit holders will not utilise the spaces.

There are approximately 230 Permit holders living in Totnes, most of whom utilise the permitted car parks on a daily basis, therefore demand for Permit parking is high. The loss of parking spaces due to the Southern Area development means even less spaces available.

Conclusion

9. Inevitably the Totnes Southern Area development is causing some local disruption for residents on top of an already limited supply of parking spaces. An amendment to the Off Street Parking Places Order (Amendment 2007) could be a simple and low-cost solution which should help ease the current situation.

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Council
28 June 2007

Background Documents: None