

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT PARKING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 18 JULY 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors: Fisher, P.A. (Chairman)
Bernard, J.D. (Vice-Chairman)

Corfield, P.	Martin, G.
Davis, D.J.	Rowley, J.
Dixon, D.I.	Toth, J.

(Staffordshire County Council and District Council Members)

Cannock Chase Council Officers: Presland, J. (Waste and Engineering Services Manager)
Schofield, S. (Senior Technical Assistant)

Staffordshire County Council Officers: Wright, D. (Community Highway Liaison Manager)
Keeling, M. (Community Highway Liaison Officer)

1. Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED:

That Councillor P.A. Fisher be appointed Chairman and Councillor J.D. Bernard be appointed Vice Chairman for the Municipal year.

2. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Clive Thomas (Parking Services Manager).

3. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No interests were declared.

4. Minutes

Councillor Toth made reference to Minute 37 and asked whether any further action had been taken with regard to the Traffic Order in relation to Mill Street, Cannock. The Community Highway Liaison Manager confirmed that this Traffic Order would be the next Order to be progressed and consultation would commence in September 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2012 be approved as a correct record.

5. CPE Progress Report for the period April - June 2012

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Waste and Engineering Services Manager presented the report and provided Members with an update on the progress of Civil Parking Enforcement in the 1st quarter from 1 April to 30 June 2012. He advised that the results of the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Penalty Charges Notices (PCN's) issued and cancelled were summarised in the Annexes to report.

The Committee were then shown an example of the new design for the blue disabled badge. The Senior Technical Assistant advised that the new design would assist in eliminating the production of counterfeit badges. Members discussed the use of the disabled badges and noted that a number of younger drivers (who were not disabled) were often seen displaying a disabled badge. Officers advised that it was difficult for Parking Enforcement Officers to challenge drivers as they may have travelled with the disabled passenger in the vehicle but they may then have separated. Any Member who suspected the misuse of a disabled badge should report this to the issuing Authority. Members were advised that Parking Enforcement Officers would need a Police Community Support Officer with them in order to challenge the driver of the vehicle about the disabled badge.

The Senior Technical Assistant confirmed that the new badge would have the expiry dates on both sides although the photograph would be displayed on the rear side of the badge for security purposes.

The Waste and Engineering Services Manager advised that a Bill was currently being drafted which would tighten up the regulations regarding blue disabled badges and give more powers to Local Authorities.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

6. Prioritisation of parking related Traffic Regulation Orders

Consideration was given to the Report of the County Council's Corporate Director for Development Services (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The report detailed the new requests for parking related Traffic Regulation Orders that had been received since the previous meeting. The Community Highway Liaison Officer outlined the requests and showed Members photographs.

The Community Highway Liaison Officer outlined the request in relation to Power Station Road. Following a discussion Members agreed to defer consideration of this request until

the new Tesco Store had been completed.

In respect of the Hussey Road request Members were advised to disregard the comments section contained in the report. Members considered the request and agreed that no further action be taken. With regard to Flaxley Road it was also agreed that no further action be taken.

Members then discussed the request for a Traffic Regulation Order in Squirrel Close due to inconsiderate parking by parents around the junction of Squirrel Close and Badgers Way. Members acknowledged that parking had been displaced to Squirrel Close as a result of parking restrictions being provided adjacent to the school on the island. The Committee considered that parking was for short periods during school times and did assist in helping to slow the traffic down.

Councillor Toth considered that the request for parking restrictions in Squirrel Close should be monitored as there was a responsibility to do something for the residents to alleviate the problem which had been caused by providing parking restrictions elsewhere.

The Community Highways Manager advised that from 1 September, 2012 Road Safety Education Officers would be involved in the Road Safety Team. The education of children and parents was a priority for the Road Safety Team and nominations would be sought for schools to be considered for the Safer Routes to School initiative. This issue would be discussed at a future meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Corfield was of the opinion that the Planning Authority should insist that a reasonable amount of parking should be provided for all new developments including schools.

Councillor Rowley asked whether white lines could be provided outside residents driveways if they considered their driveways were being blocked by inconsiderate parking by parents. The Community Highways Officer advised that he would liaise with the relevant Highways Officer and the complainant regarding this suggestion as he was of the opinion that the complaint centred on general parking in the area. However, "access protection markings" could be provided if driveways were being blocked and these were usually very effective.

It was agreed that Officers would discuss this request with the Chairman of the Committee and the local Councillor and report back to a future meeting.

The Community Highways Officer then asked Members to note the priorities list in relation to Traffic Regulation Orders which was attached to the agenda.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That request in relation to Power Station Road be deferred until the new Tesco Store had been completed.
- (B) That no further action be taken in respect of the requests in relation to Hussey Road, Norton Canes and Flaxley Road, Rugeley.

(C) That Officers discuss the request in relation to Squirrel Close with the Chairman of the Committee and the local Councillor and report back to a future meeting.

(D) That the priorities list in relation to Traffic Regulation Orders be noted.

7. Investigation and feasibility into On-street parking charges within Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley Town Centres

Consideration was given to the note of the Community Highway Liaison Officer (Enclosure 7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Community Highways Liaison Manager explained that at the previous meeting Members had requested that further information be submitted on the costings and income that would be generated from the introduction of on street parking charges. This information was attached at Enclosure 7 of the report.

Councillor Toth considered that details on the current CPE budget deficit should have been included within the information provided. The Community Highways Liaison Manager advised that this was not within his remit and the information regarding the budget deficit would have been submitted to the Staffordshire Parking Board.

Councillor Davis confirmed that information regarding the CPE budget deficit was discussed at a previous meeting of this Committee. The Waste and Engineering Services Manager advised that there were various reasons for the deficit, including greater parking compliance and car parks being used less often. However, the deficit was not the main reason for the suggestion to introduce on street parking charges.

Councillor Corfield advised the Committee that Highways Engineers had been asked to prepare a report on the feasibility of introducing on street parking charges. On street parking charges would provide short stay parking in the town which would increase prosperity within the town centre and assist local businesses who were currently finding it difficult to survive.

Councillor Toth expressed concern that 12 parking bays were proposed to be provided outside Lloyds Bank along Market Place. This would mean that instead of being allowed to park for free motorists would be charged to park in this area. He commented that the public would not wish to pay 60p per half hour period to park in a location that they could currently park in for free. He considered that the introduction of on street parking charges was to assist in reducing the current CPE budget deficit. He confirmed that he was against the introduction of car parking charges in Hednesford and Rugeley.

Councillor Davis confirmed that the Traders Association had provided financial assistance towards CCTV in Hednesford on the understanding that no car parking charges would be introduced. He considered that there would be financial implications on the service if no action was taken and the introduction of on street parking charges may assist. However, in view of the concern raised by Councillor Toth he suggested that the 12 bays along Market Place outside Lloyds Bank along should be removed from the proposal.

Councillor Corfield agreed to this suggestion and proposed that 23 new parking bays be provided in areas where there were currently double yellow lines and that charges be

reduced from 60p to 50p per half hour period. The bays be located as follows:

- 6 in Manor Avenue
- 7 in Stafford Road
- 10 in Mill Street

Councillor Toth welcomed the suggestion to remove Market Place from the proposal. However, he raised concern regarding the Mill Street location as there were two issues to consider. It had been confirmed earlier on in the meeting that the proposals for a Traffic Regulation Order in Mill Street were due to go out to consultation in September and he considered this would conflict with the proposal to provide 10 on street parking bays. He asked that further information be submitted to the Committee to clarify the position.

The Community Highways Liaison Manager confirmed that all Traffic Regulation Orders would go through a consultation process and the normal procedure was to suggest possible schemes for the public to consider.

Councillor Corfield had concern with deferring this matter to the next meeting in order to clarify the position with regards to Mill Street. He suggested that an additional meeting of the Committee should be convened as soon as possible.

Councillor Dixon asked whether disabled people would be allowed to park in the bays for free for three hours. Councillor Davis advised that they would only be allowed to park in the bays for the thirty minute period although they would be allowed to park on double yellow lines for three hours.

Following a discussion it was agreed that, in consultation with the Chairman, an additional meeting of the Committee be convened as soon as possible. The meeting would receive a further report which confirmed the costing and sites where on street parking charges could be introduced and clarified the position with regard to Mill Street.

RESOLVED:

That, in consultation with the Chairman, an additional meeting of the Joint Parking Committee be convened as soon as possible to consider a further report confirming the costing and sites where on street parking charges could be introduced and clarifying the position with regard to Mill Street.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Joint Parking Committee was scheduled for 2 October, 2012.

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN