

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
JOINT PARKING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors: Rowley, J. (Vice-Chairman – in the Chair)

Bernard, J.D.	Green, M.R.
Corfield, P.	Toth, J.
Dixon, D.I.	

(Staffordshire County Council and District Council Members)

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman: Councillor J.T. Kraujalis for Agenda item No. 5

Cannock Chase Council Officers: Schofield, S. (Senior Technical Assistant)
Thomas, C. (Parking Services Manager)

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

33. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.J. Davis (Chairman) and G. Martin, Kevin Lawlor (Head of Environmental Services) and Joss Presland (Waste and Engineering Services Manager).

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

No interests were declared.

35. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2012 be approved as a correct record.

36. CPE Progress Report for the period January-March 2012

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Steve Schofield, Senior Technical Assistant presented the report and provided Members with an update on the progress of Civil Parking Enforcement in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2011-12. He advised that the results of the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) issued and cancelled were summarised in the Annexes to the report.

In response to a question the Senior Technical Assistant confirmed that the new design of the blue badges came into effect on 1st January 2012. It was anticipated that the new design would assist in reducing the number of cancelled PCN's.

The Senior Technical Assistant outlined the two cases of Civil Enforcement Officers being assaulted by members of the public.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

37. Prioritisation of parking related Traffic Regulation Orders

Consideration was given to the Report of the County Council's Corporate Director for Development Services (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.5 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 Mill Street, Cannock. He explained that there were numerous requests for alterations to the current Traffic Order and Members may wish to investigate the feasibility of creating on street parking within Mill Street or to introduce or remove some of the restrictions. However, consideration must be given to the current cycle lanes and the availability of the supermarket car park.

Councillor Kraujalis, Ward Councillor for Cannock South, explained that he had been invited to the meeting by the Chairman as he had been approached by some of the businesses along Mill Street. He considered that parking should be allowed in Mill Street at certain times. For example, parking could be restricted between the hours of 8am – 6pm. However, after 6pm parking could be allowed as most of the trade for the businesses occurred after 6pm.

Councillor Toth indicated that he had also been approached by some of the businesses along Mill Street and he considered that a vibrant night time economy should be encouraged and local businesses should be supported. Two of the eating establishments considered that they were missing out on passing trade as customers could not park outside their premises. He suggested that the double yellow lines be replaced with a

single line and that parking be allowed after 6pm. He considered that consultation should take place regarding the proposals but was convinced that there would be support for a relaxation of the Traffic Order.

The Senior Technical Assistant advised Members that correspondence had been received last year from the music shop located in Mill Street. The owner considered that his day time trade was affected as customers were unable to park outside his premises in the day time.

County Councillor Corfield explained that he was not averse to changing the current restrictions in Mill Street but consideration should be given to the effect on all those involved.

The Community Highway Liaison Officer stated that consideration could be given to linking this request to the Remington Drive/Girton Road/Spring Street request. He confirmed that consultation would take place with residents and businesses in the area. However, residents had indicated that they were in support of changes.

Members agreed that further action should be taken in relation to this request and that further consideration would be given to its position on the priority list when this was discussed later on in the agenda.

Members then discussed the request in relation to Oakwoods, Cannock where parking outside the Social Services building on Wolverhampton Road was making it difficult to exit Oakwoods. Councillor Corfield made reference to the request for alterations to the parking order in Queen Street/Newhall Street/Victoria Street and asked whether these requests could be linked together.

Members acknowledged that the majority of parked vehicles outside the Social Services building were actually using the town centre and not visiting the building.

Members noted that there were proposals to develop the Social Services building in the future. David Wright, Community Highway Liaison Manager confirmed that a condition could be placed on the developer during the planning process for him to fund a traffic order. He suggested that Highway Officers should liaise with Officers from Planning/Development Control regarding the proposals.

Members agreed that consideration should be given to linking this request to the Queen Street/Newhall Street/Victoria Street request.

Members then discussed the request in relation to Hednesford Road, Cannock and agreed that no further action be taken. However, Members considered that the condition of the surface of the road as shown in the photographs should be noted.

With regard to Huntington Terrace Road Members agreed that no further action should be taken. However, it was noted that there were parking issues further along the road, towards the island at Central corner and considered that Officers should investigate this. The Community Highway Liaison Manager confirmed that requests for traffic orders were often localised and Highway Officers would prefer to look at the wider area and be able to broaden the brief.

Members considered that no further action should be taken in respect of the request relating to Bank Top, Rugeley.

With regard to Greenheath Road, Cannock the Community Highway Liaison Officer advised that since the report had been prepared a letter had been received from the Local Councillor which suggested that nursery times were not covered by the Traffic Order. He confirmed that that the Traffic Order could be adjusted slightly to take into account the nursery times operating at the school.

With regard the McGhie Street, Hednesford, the Community Highway Liaison Officer explained that the current order came into effect between 12pm to 2pm; however, the nursery closed at 11.45am. He confirmed that the current order could be adjusted to take into account the operating times of the nursery.

Members discussed the request in relation to Post Office Lane, Rugeley where there were a number of vehicles parking on the footpath and on Forestry land to access the various cycle trials. It had been requested that consideration be given to erecting a physical barrier/signage or to implement a Traffic Order. The Community Highway Liaison Officer explained that consideration would have to be given to the impact a TRO would have within the AONB and suggested that the request should be deferred and contact should be made with the Forestry Commission to ascertain if they would be willing to form an earth bund to prevent parking. The Police have confirmed they would monitor the footpath parking in the area.

The Community Highway Liaison Officer then asked Members to give consideration to the priority list. He circulated a suggested programme for the next 5 years which placed the Traffic Regulation Order requests in priority order for the years 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. He explained that only three requests had been chosen for 2012/13 as they were fairly large requests and they could take time to progress. However, should the orders be actioned in time a request from the year 2013/14 could be moved up the list.

Members discussed the possibility of linking together traffic orders at various locations. The Community Highways Liaison Manager explained that it was possible to link Traffic Orders and have different restrictions at each location. He confirmed that more sites could be addressed this way but it would be more difficult to reach a consensus of opinion.

Members considered that the suggested programme to set the priority order as circulated to the Committee should be agreed subject to the request in relation to Wolverhampton Road being moved from position four on the list to position one in year 2013/14.

Members were advised that a new Traffic Regulation Order (to extend the double yellow lines and protect the island) would soon be implemented at Cardinal Way, Cannock.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That consideration be given to amending the Traffic Order in relation to Mill Street and to link this request to the Remington Drive/Girton Road/Spring Street request.
- (B) That consideration be given to linking the request in relation to Oakwoods to the

Queen Street/Newhall Street/Victoria Street request.

- (C) That no action be taken in respect of the requests in relation to Hednesford Road, Cannock, Huntington Terrace Road, Cannock and Bank Top, Rugeley.
- (D) That Officers consider adjusting the traffic orders in respect of Greenheath Road, Cannock and McGhie Street, Hednesford to take into account the nursery times operating at the schools.
- (E) That the request in relation to Post Office Lane, Rugeley be deferred to enable Officers to liaise with the Forestry Commission to ascertain if they would be willing to form an earth bund to prevent parking on forestry land.
- (F) That the suggested programme to set the priority order as circulated to the Committee be agreed subject to the request in relation to Wolverhampton Road being moved from position four on the list to position one in year 2013/14.

38. Future Meetings

Members noted that meetings of the Joint Parking Committee were scheduled for 18 July, 2012, 2 October, 2012, 22 January 2013 and 23 April, 2013. It was requested that the Committee be shown an example of the new design for the blue disabled badge at the next meeting.

39. Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6(b), Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act, 1972.

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PART 2

40. Investigation and Feasibility into On-Street Parking Charging within Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley Town Centres

The Community Highway Liaison Manager explained that on street parking charging had been discussed at the last meeting. However, it had not been possible to progress the issue any further as no agreement could be reached over which Members should attend the meeting to discuss the proposals. Councillor D.J. Davis, Chairman of the Joint Parking Committee had therefore pulled the report.

He advised that should Members not wish to progress the issue of on street parking charges then further consideration would need to be given to how to recover the CPE budget deficit.

Councillor Toth considered that on street parking charges should not be introduced to address the CPE budget deficit. He commented that on street parking charges should only be introduced if they were needed, however, he did not believe that there was any area within Cannock Chase District that was suitable.

Councillor Corfield advised that the proposals for on street parking charges affected his area and he therefore considered that he should have been involved in the meeting to discuss the proposals. He considered that there was support for the introduction of on street parking charges as it would provide short stay parking in the town and this would increase prosperity within the town centre.

Councillor Toth considered that the public should be advised of the County Council's plans to introduce on street parking charges and of the proposal for income from the scheme to assist in addressing the current CPE budgetary deficit. He was convinced that the public would be against the introduction of such a scheme but wanted consultation on the proposal to take place. He considered that the issue should not be in the confidential part of the agenda if it was discussed at the next meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Rowley considered that more information on the proposal should be gathered along with any costings before there was any consultation with the public. He asked whether any other towns had introduced on street parking charges.

The Community Highway Liaison Manager confirmed that East Staffs and Newcastle District Council's had introduced on street parking charges and the revenue from the scheme had been used to fund further Traffic Regulation Orders.

The Committee was advised that Highways Officers had been asked to undertake a feasibility study on the possibility of introducing on street parking charges. Officers were asked to consider the various town centre locations that may be considered for future on street parking using Cannock Town Centre as a pilot site.

Councillor Corfield confirmed that Highways Officers had been asked to prepare a report on the feasibility of introducing on street parking charges. He further commented that the County Council had not suggested on street parking should be introduced to reduce the current CPE budget deficit. He explained that the consideration would be given to whether there were any advantages in introducing on street parking charges before any consideration was given to the financial benefit from introducing such a scheme.

Councillor Toth moved the following motion:

“That no further consideration be given to introducing on street parking charges in the District”.

This motion was seconded. Councillor Toth asked for a named vote on the motion. The vote was as follows:

Councillor J. Bernard – Against
Councillor P. Corfield – Against
Councillor D.I. Dixon - For
Councillor M. Green – For
Councillor J. Rowley – Against
Councillor J. Toth – For

As there were an equal number of votes for and against, the Chairman had the casting vote. The Chairman voted against the motion and therefore the motion was not carried.

The Committee asked that a report on the matter be prepared by County Council Officers in consultation with District Council Officers for submission to the next meeting. The report should include any costings and income that would be generated from the introduction of such a scheme. Members asked that the report be on the open part of the agenda.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee outlining various town centre locations that may be considered for future on street parking charges.
- (B) That the report should include any costings and income that would be generated from the introduction of such a scheme and be included on the open part of the agenda.

The meeting closed at 5.40 pm.

CHAIRMAN

