

Agenda Item No. 7(b)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

5 April 2016

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PAY AND DISPLAY AT WILLINGTON PICNIC SITE – COMMENTS  
RECEIVED FOLLOWING THE REVISED CHARGING ARRANGEMENTS  
(HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

- (1) **Purpose of Report** To inform Cabinet of the results of the consultation exercise regarding the amended charging arrangements for Willington Picnic Site, to seek authorisation for the amendment of the proposed Derbyshire County Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Amendment) Order 2016 (“the Order”) and to make the Order.
- (2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting of Cabinet on 15 December 2015, Cabinet resolved to approve the principle of introducing charging at Willington Picnic Site car park, subject to further consultation on the introduction of a first hour free and non-return period and, for local residents directly affected by the imposition of charges, to be eligible to purchase a season ticket at a reduced rate (Minute No. 437/15 refers). These proposals were put forward to address the concerns raised by the consultation exercise and the results were to be reported to a future Cabinet meeting.

From 3 February 2016, copies of the amended Order were on deposit in Swadlincote library and County Hall (Matlock), and on site. Notices were posted in the press and interested parties, including all those who had made representations to the original Order, were written to informing them of the amended Order and providing an opportunity to inspect the Order. Twenty one days were given for representations to be made to the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment.

A total of nine representations were received from individuals, as well as South Derbyshire District Council (including two elected members), and the local MP.

The main concerns were that:

1. The imposition of charges, and the scale of charges, would deter use of the station for travel and potentially affect its long term viability (seven objections).
2. The imposition of charges would increase parking in adjoining residential streets causing potential congestion and nuisance, and concern for access by emergency vehicles (seven objections).
3. The imposition of charges would have a negative impact on local businesses (two objections).
4. The imposition of charges would disadvantage angling club members, many of whom were pensioners and/or disabled (one objection).
5. The scheme would not be viable in itself and a waste of money.
6. If people were paying to park they would expect higher standards in the car park than available at present.

**Response:**

1. The concerns about the scale of charges deterring the use of the station by rail users and the car park for car sharing was noted in the previous report. That report noted that, as the charges are as levied at other Derbyshire County Council Countryside Car Parks, and the season ticket is benchmarked against the charges levied by Midland Mainline, which charges at its own car parks, the charges were felt to be reasonable. This is still felt to be the case as the cost of railway station parking compared to other Derbyshire sites is lower and the season ticket, in effect, means people can park all day for a £1.
2. The issue of limited parking in the village and the growth of illegal and potentially dangerous parking was also noted in the previous report. The proposal to offer free parking for the first hour to enable people visiting local businesses to park for free was proposed to help alleviate this problem. As Parking Enforcement officers will be visiting the site, it will be possible to increase the amount of roadside enforcement to deter illegal parking and the situation can be monitored.
3. Local businesses mainly consist of shops, a fish and chip shop, pubs and restaurants. It is felt that the introduction of the first hour free parking will address the concerns related to shops and that as charges do not apply after 8.00pm, the effect on pubs and restaurants will be limited (note the availability of the first hour free parking will mean that, in practice, people will not have to pay after 7.00pm).
4. Whilst the concerns of the angling club can be understood, there is no argument that this is any different from other countryside sites where charges have had to be introduced. The availability of season tickets for regular users and free parking for Blue Badge holders goes some way to offset these concerns.
5. Concern was expressed in the original consultation round that the scheme will not be viable as people will not pay to park. As explained at the time,

experience at other sites has shown that whilst there is some fall in use, especially in the early days of the implementation, once it has become established, however, most users do pay the charge and additional income is generated.

6. The condition of the car park was also expressed in the original consultation round. However, as outlined before, the proposal would enable improvements to be made to the site and generate income for its future maintenance.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The financial costs of implementing the scheme were originally calculated at £24,940 and the work was to be funded from the departmental earmarked Premises Reserve.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The procedure for making Off-Street Parking orders is laid down by sections 32 and 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Local Authority Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

The Council is obliged to consider all objections duly made and not withdrawn. The Council may modify the proposed Order in light of objections. If the Council considers that the objections are substantial, the Council must re-consult on the Order. Alternatively, parts of the Order may be made whilst a decision on the remainder is deferred.

If the Council decides to make the proposed Order, details must be published in the local press within 14 days of the decision, a copy of the Order made available for inspection and other publicity measures taken. In addition, all objectors must be sent a copy of the new Order and reasons given where the Council has not fully acceded to their objection.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Chris Coombs, extension 39821.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That Cabinet authorises the Director of Legal Services to:

- 8.1 Amend the proposed Derbyshire County Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Amendment) Order 2016 by including provision for:
  - a) the introduction of a first hour free and non-return period; and
  - b) for local residents directly affected by the imposition of charges, to be eligible to purchase a season ticket at a reduced rate.
- 8.2 Make the Derbyshire County Council (Off Street Parking Places) (Amendment) Order 2016.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**