

REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

TO: WEST CRAVEN COMMITTEE

DATE: 4 JULY 2017

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REVIEW OF COUNCIL-OWNED CAR PARKS WITHIN WEST CRAVEN

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of a report which went to the Executive on 25 May 2017 with regard to a review of Council-owned car parks in the Borough and for members to consider matters regarding various West Craven car parks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That members note a recent report to the Executive regarding a review of Council-owned car parks in the borough and that consideration be given to the following recommendations:
 - (a) The introduction of business/residents permits on the relevant car parks (as set out in the report).
 - (b) That members consider exploring the re-introduction of short-stay disc parking on Wellhouse Road Car Park, Barnoldswick.
 - (c) That, subject to recommendation 1(b), a usage study for Wellhouse Road Car Park be undertaken and the results be reported back to this Committee.
 - (d) That members note that no further action should be taken with respect to the car parks in Earby, and that they should remain as long-stay car parks for public use.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To provide a framework on which to decrease costs and increase income on public car parks in West Craven.
- (2) To ensure the availability of short-stay parking for town centre shoppers.
- (3) To provide members with a detailed analysis on which to base their decision.

BACKGROUND

1. The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report to the Executive on 25 May 2017 on the current usage, cost, condition and management for all 47 Council-owned car parks in the borough. The report also recommended future arrangements for management including retention, retention with a proposal for an alternative use or disposal.

In respect of West Craven car parks, it was resolved:

- (1) That the current provision and costs for car parks in Pendle be noted.
- (2) That the recommendations... regarding the future provision of each car park be noted.
- (3) That, subject to the above, Liberata Property Services be instructed to investigate the car parks which have been recommended for disposal, transfer or lease.
- (4) That the introduction of business/resident permits on the relevant car parks together with the suggested charge for this, be agreed and a further report be presented to Nelson, Colne and West Craven Area Committees on this issue.
- (5) That the introduction of short-stay disc parking on Wellhouse Road Car Park in Barnoldswick be agreed and a report be submitted to West Craven Committee on this via Management Team.

ISSUE

2. The issues specifically relating to West Craven car parks are set out below.
3. That no further action should be taken with respect to the car parks in Earby, and that they should remain as long-stay car parks for public use.
4. It has been recognised that some of the smaller car parks (Brook Street, Jepp Hill and North Avenue) in Barnoldswick town centre are used by long-stay office workers and town centre residents. Officers have received several requests from both sets of users for permits to park/reserve parking spaces on these car parks.
5. It is suggested that, initially, we contact the residents of North Avenue and town centre businesses in the vicinity of Jepp Hill and Brook Street to see if there is still a strength of feeling with regard to the introduction of permits and then report back to this Committee on the findings.
6. It is suggested that potential users should be advised that £100 (including VAT) is the proposed charge for an annual permit.
7. As part of the car park review, this Committee is being asked to reconsider the potential for re-introducing disc parking on Wellhouse Road Car Park. The car park is well used, and on the whole is used as a short-stay car park. There are, however, a number of users who park there for the whole day. By re-introducing short-stay disc parking this would move these long-stay users to other car parks, for example the under-utilised Rainhall Road Car Park opposite the Police Station. It would also free up additional bays for town centre shoppers.

CONCLUSION

8. Despite the cost of car parking reducing over the years, we are still in a position where we need to make savings where possible, not only to reduce costs but also to be in a better position for the future viability of the retained West Craven car parks.
9. It is therefore recommended that:
 - the introduction of business/residents permit parking be considered for Brook Street, Jepp Hill and North Avenue in Barnoldswick; and
 - members consider exploring the re-introduction of short-stay disc parking on Wellhouse Road Car Park, Barnoldswick.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The Council does not currently have a policy on renting out long-term car parking spaces.

Financial: As detailed within the report.

Legal: The introduction of business permits would not affect the Council's Off-Street Parking Order.

Risk Management: The Council does not accept liability for any damage to vehicles whilst parked on any of the public car parks. Drivers park at their own risk.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability: By charging rent to users of specific bays on public car parks, the Council can ensure an income which will assist with the continued maintenance of the car parks.

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.

APPENDICES

None.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Executive on 25 May 2017: Review of Council-Owned Car parks within the Borough.