

**Minutes of the Meeting of the CARPARKING
BEST VALUE WORKING GROUP held at the
Town Hall on Friday, 12th APRIL 2002
at 9.00a.m.**

Present:-

Councillor A.H. Miller – Chairman.
Councillor Mrs. G. Marsh
Councillor Mrs. H. O’Donovan
Councillor J. Roscoe

Also in attendance:-

A.J. Leeson Town Clerk
C.B. Makin Staff Representative

1. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for his inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Suttle (Town Mayor).

2. **MINUTES OF MEETING – 27th MARCH 2002**

The Minutes were noted as a correct record of the Meeting.
Arising from the Minutes:-

2.1 The Clerk reported that the Co-op Pioneer Store Manager had approved the Council’s request to place a “Short Stay” sign in the walled off section of the approach road.

It was suggested and AGREED:-

That a “short stay” car park sign be positioned in the flower bed adjacent to the Health Centre.

The Clerk further reported on the positive feedback received in respect of the temporary traffic management system within the Co-op Pioneer car park.

2.d) Additional car parking spaces had been identified within the untarmaced section of ground at Peveril Point.

No response had yet been received from the RNLI.

3.d) The Chairman described details of an alternative design of recycle bin that he had observed as being used within a district authority location.

Action:	The Town Clerk to obtain details for the possible introduction of “bell shaped” recycle bins and frequency of emptying .
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3. **MOTORCYCLES**

The Clerk presented details of a letter received from Councillor Baume requesting clarification of the policy for motorcycles in the Council's car parks, making comparisons with other local authorities.

It was noted that a number of small areas had been identified during site visits. It was also noted that motorcycles were required to "pay and display" if utilising a car parking space, but may park free of charge in designated motorcycle areas.

It was AGREED:-

i)

To incorporate motorcycle spaces in the site locations already identified at Broad Road and Main Beach car parks.

ii)

To seek alternative possible locations within the other car parks at the Recreation Ground.

iii)

To provide detailed information regarding charging policies at each car park location

Action:	Operations Manager to carry out further review of Broad Road carpark.
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Councillor Mrs. O'Donovan referred to the indiscriminate parking of motorcycles in the area of the Town Square during the summer season.

It was AGREED:-

To note the concern expressed in respect of illegal parking of motorcycles in the area of the Town Square and to take the appropriate action in policing and dealing with offenders.

4. **NORTH BEACH – COACH PARKING**

The Clerk presented a letter from a local hotelier regarding the parking of coaches and improved utilisation of North Beach car park.

After discussion, it was AGREED:-

That the Town Clerk write to obtain clarification of the points raised.

5. **COMPARE – EAST DORSET CAR PARKING POLICIES**

The Clerk provided details of the classification of vehicles and use of car parks within the East Dorset District Council Wimborne town centre location.

Provision of free car parking for disabled users was discussed, together with the classification given to mini-buses and campervans.

After a brief discussion, it was AGREED:-

i)

To maintain the present policy requiring payment for use of all car parking spaces.

ii)

To provide signs detailing the classification for permitted use of the large spaces recently introduced within Broad Road car park, and not permitted in any other car parks, as being “a vehicle with 9 or more seats or campervan”.

6. REVIEW OF SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES

The Clerk presented details of the survey of residents. It was noted that 60 responses, representing a return rate of 40%, were received.

The significant observations made were as follows:-

General Use

31% of residents did not use, or have a need to use any of the car parks in Swanage.

Residents Parking

77% of respondents believed the provision of residents only space to be sufficient.

77% of residents believed the summer car parking fees in the Residents' car park to be fair, and 94% believed the winter charge to be fair.

Shoppers Car Parks

84% of respondents regularly used the shoppers car parks.

73% of residents believed the number of spaces to be sufficient.

63% of respondents believed that the summer charges were not fair and 94% believing that the winter charges were fair.

Recycling Areas with Car Parks

53% of respondents used the recycling facilities at Main Beach, Victoria Avenue.

25% of residents used the facility provided at North Beach, De Moulham Road.

A range of alternative locations were suggested, including Herston, Industrial Estate, Co-op car park, Residents' car park, Recreation Ground and Broad Road.

It was concluded that provision and use of the residents only car parking scheme be more widely publicised.

It was AGREED:-

To advertise the residents parking scheme in the library, post offices, Council notice board and Website, and in estate agents' welcome packs.

It was also acknowledged that the use of recycling facilities was highly supported.

The Clerk summarised the result of a survey conducted of visitors during March.

Only 29% of visitors made use of car parks.

Broad Road was the most frequently used car park.

86% of respondents stated that the car parks were easy to find.

85% of visitors expected to pay to park in the car parks.

86% of respondents considered the charge to be fair.

7. PEVERIL POINT – RESIDENTS CAR PARKING PROPOSALS

The Chairman referred to the correspondence received (previously circulated) in response to the meeting held with Peveril Point residents on 20th March 2002, and ahead of the meeting scheduled at 10 a.m. on 13th April 2002.

It was noted that the consensus view was acceptance of the Council's proposal to introduce charges and to issue permits to regulate the parking in the area of Peveril Point.

The method of allocation, and the level of charges, was considered in association with the advice received from the Council's nominated valuer, and comparisons drawn with neighbouring towns and villages.

The provision of parking for emergency service personnel and the coast watch volunteers was discussed in consideration of reaching a workable solution.

It was noted that any system adopted should not be unduly administrative.

It was AGREED:-

That, if permits are to be introduced, there is a requirement to provide vehicle registration numbers but not adopted, and that an agreed total number of permits be issued, bearing in mind the views expressed by residents.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting be convened on Monday, 22nd April 2002, upon the conclusion of the presentation to the Tourism and Environmental Committee.
