

Minutes of the meeting of the CARPARKS
BEST VALUE REVIEW WORKING GROUP held at the
Town Hall on Monday, 4th August 2003 at 2.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor A.H. Miller – Chair
Councillor C. Bright
Councillor Mrs J. Farrow
Councillor Mrs H. O'Donovan
Councillor M. Tyrer

Also in attendance:-

Mr A.J. Leeson Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies to report.

2. MONITORING – REVIEW OF BEST VALUE REVIEW ACTION POINTS

The Clerk reported that the Best Value Review was finalised in March 2003 and that the monitoring of the action points is now to take place. The Action Plan as laid out in the 2003-04 Best Value Performance Plan pages 17 & 18 were discussed. It was agreed that the service from Dorset County Council with regard to on-street parking is poor. The Clerk however believed that it was right to anticipate a reduction in indiscriminate parking within the town with the knock on effect of an increase in volume of cars using car parks.

The Immediate to Short Term Action Points were discussed individually.

a) Creates sites mobile catering concessions at Main Beach and Broad Road car parks

The Clerk reported that only one response for the tender at Main Beach car park had been received for the 2003 season. This offer was not accepted. The possibility of selling a concession through the market was discussed for the Main Beach car park. The possibility of placing a permanent kiosk rather than a mobile kiosk at the Broad Road car park was also discussed to make this more attractive proposition.

It was AGREED:-

That the Clerk contact the planning officer at Purbeck District Council in order to assess the possibility of planning permission for a kiosk on Broad Road.

b) Provision of additional car parking spaces for disabled persons

The provision of additional disabled parking at Main Beach and the Recreation Ground has been implemented. The parking spaces on Station Approach have been remarked. It was noted that this had resulted in wider bays to conform with Road Traffic Regulations but meant a reduction in the spaces now available. Ticket machines are expected to be placed in this area as and when spare machines become available.

c) Provision of motorcycle spaces in void spaces

The provision of motorcycle bay has been implemented. It was noted however that the wording on the ticket machines needed to be agreed as payment is required per vehicle and not per space. The wording for the provision of parking for campervans and large cars was also discussed.

It was AGREED:-

That the ticket machines should be worded so that payment is for one motorcycle and that tickets should be such that one half is placed on the motorcycle and the other kept by

the owner as proof of purchase. The wording for campervans and large cars should be such that if a vehicle is larger than a specified length and width then the owners must occupy a campervan space.

d) Potential redesign layout and markings schemes

The Clerk reported that the Operations Manager had yet to approve a new scheme for the Main Beach car park including King George's. It was also reported that R.T. Pearce Associates had been used previously to design car parking layouts.

It was AGREED:-

That the Operations Manager be authorised to commission new layout design proposals through R.T. Pearce Associates in respect of Main Beach & King George's Field and North Beach car parks.

e) New road markings and improved traffic management systems

The new road markings in Station Approach have been completed. There has been an improvement with traffic management as a result however there is still a perceived problem with indiscriminate parking.

It was AGREED:-

That parking restrictions in this area be more strictly enforced.

f) Requirements to provide improved visitor information

The need for an improvement in visitor information was accepted with the requirement of visitor information boards at each car park and outside the Tourist Information Centre. It was generally recognised that an input was required from the Tourist Information Centre.

It was AGREED:-

That this issue should be referred to the Tourism Working Group.

It was also noted that the directional signs for Broad Road car park were inaccurate and should read Broad Road long stay car park, whereas it is described as the Pier car park. This matter will be brought to the attention of Dorset County Council.

g) Changes in charging policy

It was noted that any changes in the charges are made in the annual Estimates.

The Short to Medium Term (1-5 years) Action Points were discussed

a) Parking restrictions at Peveril Point

The Clerk reported that the Council were awaiting a ruling from Dorset County Council as there is a statutory requirement for a parking order. The Chair requested that all new members of the working group be issued with any Minutes from Meetings relating to this matter. After a brief discussion:

It was AGREED:-

That a member from the Peveril Residents group be co-opted onto the Car Parks Best Value Working Group.

The possibility of demolishing an existing garage block owned by the Council was discussed as a result of an enquiry from residents willing to pay £500 per annum for the use of

this site as a car park.

It was AGREED:-

That the potential income from the sites be investigated before the garages are demolished.

The rent of a garage that is presently let was discussed. The lease on this property is due for renewal with the potential to increase the rent by no more than 100%. It was noted that a valuer had recommended an annual rent of £500 for the site.

It was AGREED:-

That the rent on the garage be increased by the maximum amount in order to bring the rent in line with the valuer's recommended income.

Upon being put to a vote Four Members voted IN FAVOUR of the PROPOSAL and One Member ABSTAINED, whereupon the PROPOSAL was DECLARED CARRIED.

b) New Market at Main Beach

The Clerk reported that planning permission for the Market was expected within the next few days.

c) Discount Voucher/Advertising Campaign

The Clerk reported that the discounts scheme had been approved by the Chamber of Trade and was now in place. It was noted that the advertising of Council amenities on car park tickets was operational however Beach Gardens had not been advertised due to restrictions imposed by the printing constraints.

d) Machine Upgrade/Replacement

The need for a complete upgrade on the car park machines to ones that will accept credit cards was recognised by the group. A discussion arose as to the possibility of requesting that the Co-op replace their machines with two new ones. This would allow for an assessment prior to purchasing further machines. The possibility of replacing one machine in Broad Road and one in Main Beach was then discussed.

It was AGREED:-

That the Operations Manager assess the costs for installing a new machine at Broad Road and Main Beach car parks of a type that would accept notes, coins and credit cards and would provide change.

3. **POLICY REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

The Council's policy as laid out in the Best Value Performance Plan was reviewed. The situation with regard to the enforcement of parking restrictions was discussed. Members believed that there was a need for extra staff during the summer season, to ensure seven day coverage, with two Enforcement Officers working the weekend. This would also result in an improvement in the spread of hours for car parking duties with either an increase in car park revenue or the capacity to issue Excess Charge Tickets.

It was AGREED:-

That a full-time seasonal Enforcement Officer be employed, with a view to making the position permanent, at a rate of pay to be determined by the Clerk.

The method of issuing Excess Charge Tickets by hand was briefly discussed.

It was AGREED:-

That the Clerk investigate the feasibility of introducing a system for issuing Excess Charge Tickets by machine.

The Clerk reported to members of the Working Group that a letter requesting parking permits for the Residents car park by builders currently erecting flats in Rempstone Road had been received. After a brief discussion:

It was AGREED:-

That six designated spaces at a cost of £25.00 per space per week be offered to the builders.

The Meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.
