

**Minutes of the
Executive**

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 6 December 2022

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Present:

S D T Woodward, Policy and Resources (Executive Leader)
I Bastable, Streetscene
Miss J Burton, Health & Public Protection
Mrs C L A Hockley, Housing
S D Martin, Planning and Development
Mrs S M Walker, Leisure and Community

Also in attendance:

Ms C Bainbridge, for item 8(1)
Mrs K K Trott, for item 8(1)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence given for this meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on Friday 11 November 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader made reference to recent media announcements about the Government's apparent decision to scrap top-down housing targets. The Executive Leader confirmed that the Council must await any legislation and in the meantime, nothing has changed and these announcements will not affect the timeline for the Local Plan 2037 which will hopefully be found sound early next year and is based on the existing top-down housing figures.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted at this meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS

Written deputations were received in respect of item 8(1) of the agenda from Beryl Swain, Verity Fair, Graham Allibone, and Gareth Jones. A deputation was also received from Roger Price, County Councillor for Fareham Portchester division in respect of item 8(1) of the agenda.

7. REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**Health & Public Protection Scrutiny Panel – 01 November 2022**

Minute 7 – Review of parking charges at coastal locations and options identified in the September 2020 review

Deputations were received in respect of this item as detailed in the table provided at minute 5.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors M J Ford, P M Nother, Mrs K Mandry and H P Davis addressed the Panel on this item.

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Leisure and Community which presented the outcomes from the 12-month review of the coastal car parking charges. The report included an annual review of charging in coastal locations which were introduced in August 2021 and provided the reconsideration of options identified for town centre parking as part of the September 2020 review.

The Panel was invited to consider the recommendations being taken forward to the Executive and to provide comments to be taken into account at the meeting of the Executive on 06 December 2022.

Members raised concern at the significant increase in the proposed cost of an annual season ticket for the Borough's coastal car parks, noting that the cost represents a 56% increase on the current cost. It was strongly felt that an increase in line with the current rate of inflation would be more reasonable and, on this basis, it was suggested that the cost be increased to £90.

It was noted that the Council faces significant financial challenges over the coming years and Members agreed that it is appropriate to consider parking charges at this time, particularly as income that can be generated through increasing Council Tax is limited. The Panel suggested that a charging scheme similar to the beach huts scheme could be applied to annual season tickets for coastal car parks. This could allow a reduced rate for residents of the Borough of £90 and the proposed increased rate of £125 for non-residents.

Members raised concern that the proposed increase in charging hours at the coastal car parks to cover 10am to 8pm would have an adverse impact on residents who use the coastal facilities for recreational purposes and could

potentially affect their mental health and well-being. It was felt however that there could be scope for removing the current cap of £6 a day and simply charging for every hour of the current charging period. Anyone parking from 10am to 6pm, would therefore pay an increased maximum rate of £8 a day.

The Panel strongly agreed with the recommendation in the report that there should be no increase in charges at the Town Centre car parks at the present time as this could have an impact on the footfall in the town centre which would adversely affect businesses.

The Panel discussed whether it would be feasible to allow 2 cars to be registered on an annual season ticket for car parks at coastal locations. It was noted that this had been suggested as part of the original parking review and was rejected on the basis that it could have an impact on the level of income generated and could also be difficult to manage effectively. It was agreed that this option could be considered further at the parking review in 2023/24.

Consideration was given to the possibility of removing free parking for blue badge holders, however there was concern that this may result in increased on-street parking in unsuitable locations. It was agreed that this could be re-considered at the 2023/24 parking review.

It was noted that the report contained a recommendation that height restriction barriers at Portchester precinct car park should not be installed, as was requested in a motion presented to Council on 21 October 2022. Whilst the Panel understood the reasons for the request it was felt that the

reasons given for not proceeding were sound and it was therefore agreed that the barriers should not be installed.

RESOLVED that the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel makes the following recommendations for consideration by the Executive at its meeting on 06 December 2022:

- (a) the cost of a coastal car parking annual season ticket be increased to £90 for residents of the Borough and £125 for non-residents;
- (b) the coastal car parking charging period remains at 10am to 6pm;
- (c) the parking cap of £6 per day at the coastal car parks be removed;
- (d) no increase to parking charges be implemented at the town centre car parks at the present time;
- (e) options for the implementation of parking charges for blue badge holders be considered as part of the 2023/24 parking review;
- (f) options for 2 cars to be registered on one coastal car park annual season ticket be considered as part of the 2023/24 parking review; and
- (g) height restriction barriers at Portchester Precinct car park not be installed.

This item was considered at item 8(1) on the agenda.

8. HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

- (1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations and options identified in September 2020 Review

Deputations were received in respect of this item from Beryl Swain, Verity Fair, Graham Allibone, Gareth Jones and County Councillor Roger Price.

Comments received from local residents in respect of this item were tabled at the meeting for consideration and appended to these minutes.

Additional information was tabled at the meeting in respect of the three additional car parks for which the feasibility of introducing coastal charging is being assessed.

The comments of the Health & Public Protection Scrutiny Panel were taken into account in considering this item.

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillors Ms C Bainbridge and Mrs K K Trott addressed the Executive on this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees that:

- (a) a full review of town centre parking be undertaken in 2024;

- (b) the charge for a coastal season ticket be set at £145 per year with a concessionary rate of £95 per year for residents of the Borough of Fareham;
 - (c) hourly charges in coastal car parks be increased by 10% in line with inflation;
 - (d) the existing £6 per day cap on charges at pay-and-display coastal car parks be removed;
 - (e) a feasibility report to support categorisation of additional car parks as coastal should be undertaken; and
 - (f) height barriers at Portchester Precinct are not installed.
- (2) Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees to extend the current Public Spaces Protection Order under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 for a further 3 years in relation to Fareham Town Centre.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 6.43 pm).

Wicor, Shearwater and Seafeld Car Park Information

Introduction

This notes provides further information on the three additional car parks for which the feasibility of introducing coastal charging is being assessed.

Car park locations within the Borough



Wicor Recreation Ground

- Located in Portchester, with easy access to the coast
- 109 marked bays (only 40 of these are covered by the current TRO), including 4 disabled
- Height Barriers at each entrance
- Portchester AFC are halfway through a 30 year lease on one of the pavilions which provides them with access to parking for members and visitors engaged with club business

Shearwater Car Park

- Located on the edge of residential area, with access to coastal path walk (approx. 0.2miles from coast)
- Unmarked gravel car park – surface in poor condition
- Unsuitable for lining – would need to be resurfaced or could install marker blocks (as per Meon Shore)

Tabled Item 8(1) – Review of Parking Charges at Coastal Locations and options identified in September 2020 Reivew

- Potential space for 16 marked bays, including 2 disabled

Seafield Park

- Located adjacent Salterns Park (approx. 0.5miles from coast)
- 59 marked bays, including 3 disabled
- One section of the car park (10 spaces) is separated by bollards and height barrier for use by teams using the pavilion

Car Park Count Survey

Daily spot check counts were conducted by Enforcement Officers over one week in November. On match days, Wicor Rec and Seafield were full. Otherwise, there was an average 8% occupancy in Seafield Park and 15% occupancy in Wicor.

Car Park	Thurs 1 0 Nov	Friday 1 1 Nov	Sat 12 Nov	Sun 1 3 Nov	Mon 14 Nov	Tues 15 Nov	Weds 1 6 Nov	Thurs 17 Nov
Wicor Rec Ground (109 spaces)	24	18	109	109	14	2	18	18
Shearwater Car Park (unmarked)	6	4	7	7	2	2	5	5
Seafield Park (59 spaces)	8	5	4	59	6	2	2	7

Item: 8(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations
Comments received

1. Email Saturday 26 November 2022

The increase to £95 is considerably fairer and more palatable, yet I have sympathy with non-residents who will still need to pay the increased amount. This does seem unjust when they already pay more in rental already.

However, overall, the proposals are a huge improvement on the original suggestions, and I commend the council for listening and reacting positively.

2. Email Sunday 27 November 2022

May I ask that, as a beach-hut owner and resident of Hampshire, that I too could qualify for the concessionary annual rate for parking? I inherited the hut and they were residents of Stubbington. They were active members of the community and very well loved at Monks Hill beach and beyond. I am not a well-off Londoner coming down at weekends; I live in a two-bedroomed terrace outside of Winchester and am self-employed, so I do not earn a great deal.

I go to the hut all year round to swim and to remember my parents, as well as socialise with fellow hut owners, many of whom I have known for over 20 years. I was brought up swimming and sailing in the Solent and would very much like to continue to enjoy the beach at Monks Hill.

I feel that the hut owners are already paying a huge amount to FBC and that it would make a huge difference to us if we were to pay a little less for parking, but not make much impact on the council income if we were to pay 50% more than residents.

I might also point out that 50% of £95 takes the fee way above the original proposed annual cost of £125. Unless that was a mistake, which it may well have been.

There is also a call by many hut owners, including myself, to ask that the permit could be valid for at least two vehicles - but obviously, not at the same time. This would allow us to come as a family.

I am confident that the other hut owners would feel much the same as I do. I know others are also relatively local, and live in the county, if not the borough of Fareham.

I hope you can view my requests favourably.

Item: 8(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations
Comments received

3. Email Monday 28 November 2022

I own a beach hut and I did buy a parking permit last summer as I do not believe people should park in nearby residential roads to avoid paying their dues, and intended to continue to buy a permit so long as it is required to park in the coastal car parks.

I accept that perhaps there is a need to increase the charge for the annual permits but am most disappointed to read your proposal to levy a higher standard rate for non-concession/non-Borough residents. I already pay Fareham Borough Council double the beach hut plot rental and feel this is somewhat discriminatory. Hill head is probably our nearest beach so should we all not all have equal opportunity to enjoy the coast?

I would be interested to know how much each borough resident pays towards the beach at Hill Head, and if this is covered by the double plot rent that I pay I cannot see why parking permits should also incur a higher rate.

Surely beach hut owners from outside the borough have no other option but to drive to visit their huts and need somewhere to park, so why should we be penalised further for enjoying time at our huts

I am sure from this letter you understand my strength of feeling against the imbalanced increases to parking permits and ask that you present this letter at your meeting, hope that common sense prevails and that you please advise me of the decision reached on the 6th.

4. Email Tuesday 29 November 2023

I am writing to object in the strongest terms to the proposed increase in parking charges for Coastal Car Parks.

The proposal to increase the cost of an annual permit from £80 to £95 is outrageous. Although better than the original proposal of £125, it still is an 18.75% increase which is above inflation. The proposal to Charge non- residents £145 (an increase of 81.25%) is unfair, discriminatory and preposterous. This will have a severe adverse effect on the membership of local sports clubs. We are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis and these increases are both unjustified and simply greedy.

We belong to Seafarers Sailing Club and a high percentage of our Members live outside the borough. We race every Tuesday and Thursday evening in the summer as well as at weekends. All racing is supported by duty crews who provide patrol boat cover and safety cover on the beach. These duty crews are volunteers and if they are required to pay for parking they will simply stop volunteering. We support the Council's 'Access all Areas' programme and this support again is provided by volunteers who readily give up their time to help. Such an increase in parking charges will mean far fewer volunteers and therefore will have a detrimental effect on our efforts to support the Council.

Item: 8(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations Comments received

Since the introduction of charges there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of cars using the car parks. I use the Salterns Car Park every day. Such a steep increase in charges is very unfair to people, many of whom are pensioners who like to go down to look at the sea. Does the Council want to stop people going to the beaches? I note that Gosport's annual permit is £85.

A secondary consequence will be to push parking back from the coastal car parks on to the surrounding side roads. This is already happening and will only increase. This will cause congestion in the side roads, cause great inconvenience to residents and present a danger to children out playing.

I note from the briefing paper that Town Car Parks are underutilised. Have you considered that this may be because of the parking charges? We used to shop frequently in Fareham, but since the introduction of high parking charges, we now shop elsewhere where we do not have to pay so much to park.

We have an annual permit each (income to the Council £160). If the proposed increase goes ahead, we will seriously consider reducing this to one permit (£95) so the Council will be worse off. That makes no economic sense at all. With an impending significant rise in Council Tax as well, it would appear that the Council are only interested in punishing residents.

5. Email Wednesday 1 December 2022

I am writing to object in the strongest possible way to the proposed increase in parking charges for the Coastal Car Parks.

The proposal to increase the cost of an annual permit from £80 to £95 is outrageous. Although better than the original proposal of £125, it still is an 18.75% increase which is above inflation. The proposal to Charge non- residents £145 (an increase of 81.25%) is unfair, discriminatory and preposterous. These car parks serve various sporting and community activities including the membership of local sports clubs. We are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis and these increases are both unjustified and simply greedy.

I belong to Seafarers Sailing Club, but a high percentage of our members live outside the borough. We race every Tuesday and Thursday evening in the summer as well as all weekends. All racing is supported by duty crews who provide patrol boat cover and safety cover on the beach. The patrol boat cover is essential and without it we could not safely race. The Club's volunteers are being penalized for ensuring people are able to sail in a safe and enjoyable way. These duty crews are volunteers and if they are required to pay for parking and they will simply stop volunteering, especially if they live outside of Fareham. We support the Council's 'Access all Areas' programme, and this support again is provided by volunteers who readily give up their time to help. Such an increase in parking charges will mean far fewer volunteers and therefore will have a detrimental effect on our efforts to support the Council.

Item: 8(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations
Comments received

Since the introduction of charges there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of cars using the car parks. It must be very frustrating for people living in the roads nearby as the walkers, mostly retired people, are finding the car parking costs already too high for them. I use the Salterns Car Park most days. Such a steep increase in charges is very unfair to people, many of whom are pensioners who like to go down to just look at the sea. Does the Council want to stop people going to the beaches? I see that Gosport's annual permit is £85. If the Council increase parking rates too much you will actually find your income going down instead of up as so many people will simply park in the roads nearby or not bother visiting the beach at all. We already have Sailing Club members, who live a little over half a mile from the Club but out of the Fareham perimeters, who have indicated that they will not be using the car park and will be forced out of the Club. This seems extremely short sighted for a Council who should be proud of their amazing seafront and its facilities for sailing, swimming, kite surfing, kayaking etc and a multitude of kids enjoying the beach. Please think again as this is going to have a devastating effect on this wonderful facility, The Solent.

I note from the briefing paper that Town Car Parks are underutilised. Have you considered that this may be because of the parking charges? We used to shop frequently in Fareham, but since the introduction of high parking charges, we now shop elsewhere where we do not have to pay to park.

We currently have an annual permit each, as [name] sails at different times to my volunteer duties (income to the Council £160) If the proposed increase goes ahead, we will seriously consider reducing this to one permit (£95) so the Council will be worse off. That makes no economic sense at all. With an impending significant rise in Council Tax as well, it would appear that the Council are only interested in punishing residents.

6. Email Saturday 25 November 2022

We are not considered resident for getting the discounted season ticket. I had Facebook correspondence with Sean Woodward and he confirmed there were no discounts for beach hut owners.

I am extremely disappointed with this decision. We already pay over £1000 a year for the ground rent for the beach hut and I would therefore have thought that we would be entitled to the discount as well as resident.

We have purchased season tickets for the last 2 years. We would be happy to purchase the discounted season ticket even though we would not pay that much in parking charges if we paid as we go as it is easier not having to worry about finding change. If we have to pay the higher £145 we will just pay as we go and are likely to spend considerably less than even the £95 discounted rate so you would lose revenue from us during the year and I am sure there would be other beach hut owners who would be in the same position.

Please can you take this to the meeting on 6 December.

**Item: 8(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations
Comments received**

7. Email Monday 05 December 2022

Noting item 2 on the list below where you propose a 'concessionary rate of £95 for residents, and a higher standard rate of 50% more for non-concession / non-Borough residents'

This is a massive difference and does not take into consideration Hampshire residents (although non-Borough) that are within 45 minutes from home. I am only at the top of the A32 and make loads of trips to Hillhead each year and not just in the main season. Have you considered the possibility of a mid-way percentage increase of perhaps 20% above the £95 for other Hampshire residents?

You are only taking into consideration London based higher earners that just 'pop along' at weekends and not the true footfall usage that bring business into the area by using the Shack and shops in Lee on the Solent village regularly.

Please add my views to your agenda on Tuesday 6th December.

