

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 1 November 2022

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor F Birkett (Chairman)

Councillor (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs P M Bryant, Mrs T L Ellis, Miss T G Harper, Mrs K K Trott and S Ingram (deputising for Ms S Pankhurst)

Also Present: Councillors H P Davis, M J Ford, JP, Mrs K Mandry, P Nother and Miss J Burton, Executive Member for Health & Public Protection.



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ms S Pankhurst.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health & Public Protection Scrutiny Panel held on 21 June 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements made at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OR ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

The Panel received deputations from the following in respect of the items stated:

Name	Item
Graham Allibone	Item 7 – Review of Parking Charges at Coastal Locations and options identified in the September 202 Review
Ted Black	-do-
Frank Bonfield	-do-
Kyle Wood	-do-
Rev. Ian Meredith	-do-
Andy Amor	-do-
Mark Vartan	-do-
John Brazier	-do-
Graham Moody	-do-

6. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

(1) Review of Hackney Carriage Tariff

There were no comments or questions for clarification in respect of this item.

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.

8. QUEEN ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL SCRUTINY TOPICS

The Panel was reminded that at the last meeting, members had requested that a scoping report be brought forward for consideration to identify topics for scrutiny at the Queen Alexandra Hospital.

The Director of Leisure and Community advised the Panel that given the increasing number of hospitalisations due to covid and flu cases, now was not an appropriate time to add to the pressures faced by the hospital. It was therefore agreed that this item for scrutiny would be deferred to a later date.

RESOLVED that the Health & Public Scrutiny Panel agrees that scrutiny of the Queen Alexandra Hospital be postponed to a more suitable time.

9. HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES

Members were given the opportunity to discuss the scrutiny priorities for the Panel.

In discussing the priorities, members considered whether the Council's climate change commitments are being taken into account in the matters that the Panel deals with. It was agreed that reports presented to the Panel reflect the Council's commitments, for example the installation of solar powered car parking machines, and members were confident that they are vigilant in ensuring that climate change matters are taken into account.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Priorities for the Panel were reviewed.

(The meeting started at 6.03 pm
and ended at 7.28 pm).