

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 15 April 2013

Portfolio: Strategic Planning and Environment
Subject: **Proposed Titchfield Parking Review**
Report of: Director of Planning and Environment
Strategy/Policy:

Corporate Objective: Maintain and extend prosperity

Purpose:

To seek the approval of the Executive to carry out a review of parking in the Square, Titchfield and to inform them of the process to be followed and funding required.

Executive summary:

The ward Member for Titchfield has requested that we investigate whether all-day parking in the Square, Titchfield potentially by individuals parking and then commuting elsewhere, is adversely affecting local businesses and use by local people. If problems are found to exist these could then potentially be resolved through parking restrictions. Appendix A contains a plan of Titchfield with the main parking areas highlighted.

This report sets out the process that would be necessary in order to carry out this review, including the following:

- (a) Discussion with the Titchfield Village Trust and local residents association, alongside informal discussion with local traders
- (b) Assessment of the nature and extent of any perceived problems
- (c) Survey work on the Square to assess the actual use of the parking spaces and to ensure any solutions later drawn up relate to a strong evidence base
- (d) Survey work in the car parks to ensure existing capacity is sufficient to absorb any displaced parking following the introduction of any further parking restrictions on the Square
- (e) Once the data has been analysed it will be possible to draw up potential solutions and carry out a public consultation on the proposals.

The total cost of the survey work will be in the order of £15,000.

Recommendation:

That the Executive approves the proposal to carry out a review of parking on the Square, Titchfield.

Reason:

This review will be of benefit to both local businesses and residents. Allowing better use of the existing parking spaces will enable more customers to access local shops and services, hence supporting the local economy.

Cost of proposals:

£15,000.

Appendices: Appendix A – Plan of Titchfield parking areas

Background papers: None

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date: 15 April 2013

Subject: Proposed Titchfield Parking Review

Briefing by: Director of Planning and Environment

Portfolio: Strategic Planning and Environment

INTRODUCTION

1. The Square, Titchfield currently contains a significant number of on-street parking bays that provide parking for businesses and residents. The bays are heavily used and there is a perception that long-stay users are restricting turnover and adversely affecting businesses by preventing customers from parking. There is a perception that groups of commuters may be parking in the Square in order to continue their journey in a single vehicle, hence reducing costs of parking in the town centre. If this is the case it is possible that a proportion of the available parking is being used for long-stay purposes by motorists who are neither accessing local facilities or residents of the Square.
2. It has therefore been requested that a review of parking provision in the area is carried out, with a view to defining whether the parking spaces on the Square are being used in the most appropriate way and whether current use patterns are adversely affecting local businesses. If it is apparent that the parking is not functioning in a way which benefits local businesses and residents potential solutions can be developed to change use patterns in order to encourage optimal use of the available spaces.
3. Appendix A contains a plan of Titchfield highlighting the Square, the Community Centre car park and Barry's Meadow car park.

PROPOSED REVIEW PROCESS

4. This section sets out the process that would be followed in order to carry out a review of the parking in the Square, Titchfield.

Informal dialogue with local residents and traders

5. Informal dialogue will be sought with the Titchfield Village Trust and local residents association in order to seek views on the proposed review and to advise that survey work will be being carried out in the Square and in the car parks. This will in the first instance take the form of a letter addressed to the relevant groups. This dialogue will help to scope the review and highlight issues that will require attention as part of it.
6. Similar dialogue would also be sought with local traders based in the Square as any changes to parking arrangements would be likely to affect their businesses. This will also take the form of a letter dropped in to all traders in the affected area. Again, this dialogue will be used to help scope the review and to inform the traders of the survey work that will be carried out.

Survey work

7. As part of the review process survey work will be needed to ascertain how the available on street spaces are used in order to inform any possible solution. The data gathered will need to include the following:
 - number of spaces occupied per hour
 - dwell time
 - turnover
 - journey purpose
 - journey origin
8. It is suggested that this information is gathered on at least two weekdays and on Saturday, as this is likely to cover the peak time for shoppers as well as weekday daytime users. The data will need to be collected between 08.00 and 18.00 in order to provide an adequate span of information. This work is likely to have a cost implication of up to £10,000 as it will require a professional parking survey supplier to be contracted to carry out the work.
9. Further restrictions placed on on-road parking in the Square could potentially shift parking from this area into the off-street car parks and nearby residential streets. Off-street car parks in Titchfield are not charged and may be able to absorb some displaced parking, depending on current use levels. In order to assess whether current car park capacity is adequate to absorb displaced parking a survey will need to be carried out into current levels of use and how many empty bays are generally available. This work should be carried out on the same days and for the same time period as the on-street survey work in order to provide comparable data. However, it may also be necessary to carry out an extra survey when the Titchfield Community Centre, Mill Street is active as this will also have an impact on the number of spaces available in one of the off-street car parks. This work will have a cost implication of up to £5,000.
10. Data gathered on dwell time in the Square will give an indication of how many motorists who currently park there would be likely to be displaced by any given parking restriction. This number can then be compared with the number of available bays in the off-street car parks to indicate whether capacity will be adequate. If capacity is not adequate it is likely that implications for nearby residential streets may be significant and that therefore further on-street restrictions may become necessary to address displaced parking.

11. It would also be beneficial to carry out some survey work into what on-street restrictions are currently active in the area in order to indicate whether there is on-street parking available closer to the Square than the off-street car parks. If this is the case, it is likely that motorists will attempt to park on-street before using the off-street car parks and this will have potentially negative implications for local residents. This work can be carried out by Fareham Borough Council officers and therefore does not add to the cost implication; however it will require resources from the Traffic and Design Manager.

Actions following survey work

12. Once adequate information has been gathered options can be developed by officers to potentially improve parking provision in the Square. What these options consist of will depend on use patterns revealed by the survey data.
13. Once options have been developed they will be presented to the Executive portfolio holders for Strategic Planning and Environment and Public Protection and other interested parties before a decision is taken on what the most appropriate course of action might be.
14. Once a decision has been taken and actions decided upon, local residents and businesses will be consulted on the proposed measures.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. There are no significant risks associated with these proposals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The review is likely to incur costs of approximately £15,000 due the survey work required. This will be met from the Council's spending reserve.

CONSULTATIONS

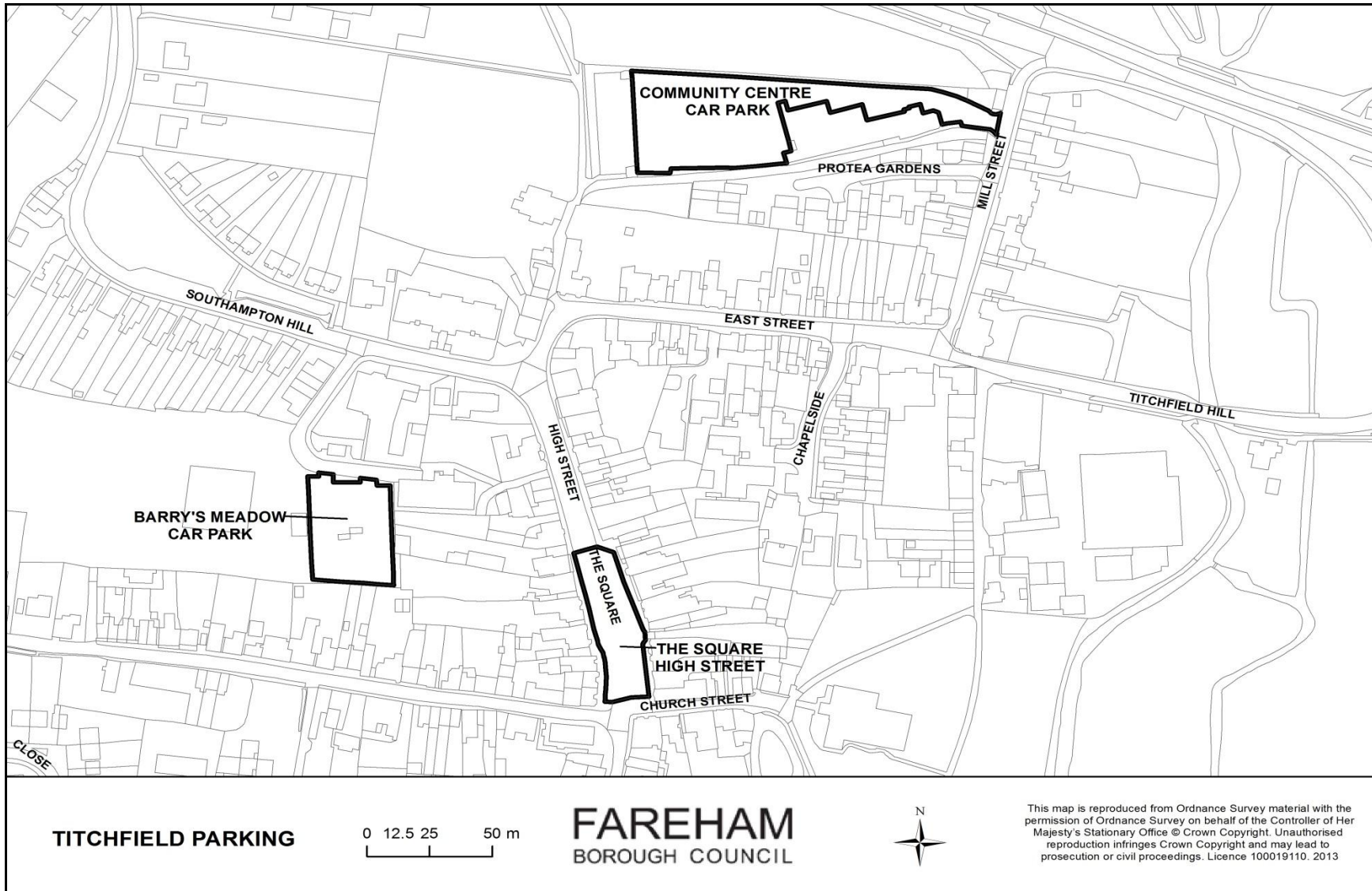
16. Consultation will be carried out with both local residents and businesses as part of the review process, as outlined above.
17. If parking restrictions or other measures are considered necessary and are progressed, these will also be subject to consultation as part of the implementation process.

CONCLUSION

18. There is currently a perception that the on-street parking bays in the Square, Titchfield are not being used in a way which benefits the local community. The review process outlined above will enable Fareham Borough Council to ascertain whether this is in fact the case and if so what is causing the problem.
19. The survey data will enable the Council to make fully informed decisions regarding potential solutions and hence avoid implementing measures which will either be ineffective or make the problem worse. It is extremely important that an adequate data-set is established in order to ensure that funds are not wasted on schemes which are not required and that all schemes represent value for money.

Reference Papers: None

Appendix A – Plan of the main parking areas in Titchfield village centre



Contact: Rosemary Fletcher, Principal Transport Planner
E-mail – rfletcher@fareham.gov.uk (Tel: 01329 822373)

xpt-130415-r13-rfl