

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 03 July 2023

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Portfolio: | Health and Public Protection |
| Subject: | Traffic Regulation Order for Extension of Coastal Car Park Cohort – consideration of consultation responses |
| Report of: | Head of Environmental Health |
| Corporate Priorities: | Strong, Safe, Inclusive and Healthy Communities. Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council. |

Purpose:

This report sets out the results of the recent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation for the extension of the coastal car park cohort and introduction of charges at Wicor Recreation car park. It requests consideration by the Executive Member and a decision on the adoption of an updated Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023.

Executive summary:

At the meeting of the Executive on 3 April 2023, it was agreed that Wicor Recreation Ground car park be reclassified as a coastal car park. As a result of a petition with 1,796 signatories being submitted, the decision was further debated at Full Council on 20 April 2023.

In setting the proposed charges, the deputations and comments made during the decision-making process were considered. The following charges were proposed by AFC Portchester and formed the basis of the consultation:

- a. Introduce charges in Wicor Recreation Car Park of £1.10 per hour between 10am-6pm Monday-Friday, £1.10 for one hour, £2.20 for four hours and £4.40 for eight hours between 10am-6pm Saturday-Sunday;
- b. Amend the plan for Wicor Recreation Car Park; and
- c. Include Wicor Recreation Car Park as a Coastal Car Park meaning that a Coastal Car Parks Season Ticket may be used in Wicor Recreation Car Park.

If the Amended Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023 is approved, three solar powered pay-and-display machines will be purchased, and signage installed at Wicor Recreation car park to clearly display the charges. The existing pay-by-phone system will be updated to include Wicor Recreation car park. The Council's website will be updated to ensure that parking information reflects the amended Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023. The My Account

system and allied correspondence will be updated to include Wicor Recreation car park in the Coastal Season Ticket offer.

It is proposed that charges would come into effect on 1 August 2023.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive Member:

- (a) agrees the adoption of the updated Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023 as attached at Appendix A to this report.; and
- (b) formally writes to Hampshire County Council as the Highway Authority to request that double yellow lines, or other appropriate traffic management strategies, be installed on Cranleigh Road.

Reason:

To allow for the reclassification of Wicor Recreation car park as a coastal car park, and the introduction of parking charges.

Cost of proposals:

The costs of three new solar pay-and-display machines (£17,739), installation and signage will be offset by income generated within the first year of charges being raised at Wicor Recreation car park.

Appendices: **A:** Draft Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023

Background papers:

Reference papers: [3 April 2023 Executive Report – Extension of coastal car parking charges](#)

[20 April 2023 Full Council - Minutes](#)

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Date: | 03 July 2023 |
| Subject: | Traffic Regulation Order for Extension of Coastal Car Park Cohort – consideration of consultation responses |
| Briefing by: | Head of Environmental Health |
| Portfolio: | Health and Public Protection |

Introduction

1. This report sets out the results of the recent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation for the extension of the coastal car park cohort and introduction of charges at Wicor Recreation car park. It requests consideration by the Executive Member and a decision on the adoption of an updated Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023.

Background

2. Following its meeting on 6 December 2022, the Executive requested that a feasibility report be undertaken to consider extending the coastal car parking cohort to include Wicor Recreation Ground, Seafield Park and Shearwater car parks.
3. As a result of this work, a report recommending that Wicor Recreation Ground be reclassified as a coastal car park was agreed at the Executive on 3 April 2023.
4. The decision was further debated at Full Council on 20 April 2023 following the receipt of a petition with 1,796 signatories. It was agreed at this meeting that the Executive Member for Health and Public Protection takes into account the comments raised by the petition and the deputations received when considering the Draft Off-Street Traffic Regulation (Amendment 7) Order 2023.
5. In setting the proposed charges, the deputations and comments made during the decision-making process were considered. The following charges were proposed by AFC Portchester and formed the basis of the consultation:
 - a. Introduce charges in Wicor Recreation Car Park of £1.10 per hour between 10am-6pm Monday-Friday, £1.10 for one hour, £2.20 for four hours and £4.40 for eight hours between 10am-6pm Saturday-Sunday;
 - b. Amend the plan for Wicor Recreation Car Park; and
 - c. Include Wicor Recreation Car Park as a Coastal Car Park meaning that a Coastal Car Parks Season Ticket may be used in Wicor Recreation Car Park.

6. The Draft Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023 consultation ran between 5 May 2023 and 9 June 2023. The proposed order and details of how to take part were placed on the Council's website.
7. A notice was published in the Hampshire Independent and consultees, including Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire County Council, the Road Haulage Association, the Freight Transport Association, and various local bus companies were contacted.
8. A hard copy set of documents was made available at the reception of the Civic Offices throughout the consultation period.
9. Public notices were sited in Wicor Recreation car park, and emails sent to members of the E-panel. Letters were sent to local residents, businesses, and AFC Portchester.

Consultation Results

10. Overall, 25 responses were received from a range of interested parties including regular car park users, AFC Portchester, and residents. A majority, but not all, respondents opposed the proposed charges being introduced at Wicor Recreation car park. AFC Portchester, among others, wrote in support of the proposals.
11. The following main themes emerged from responses:
12. **Consideration of alternate tariffs:** Eight respondents commented directly on the proposed tariffs, with two respondents – including AFC Portchester – accepting the proposed weekend tariffs as a fair compromise for members and visitors to AFC Portchester. Five respondents suggested that parking should either remain free for Portchester residents or that there should be a free period of 1–2 hours before charges come into effect. An additional two respondents asked that a waiting period be introduced for residents using the bottle banks in the car park.
13. The proposed tariffs were set following consideration of the deputations and comments received during the decision-making process. The proposed weekend tariffs for Wicor Recreation Car Park differ from other coastal car parks and were proposed by AFC Portchester as a compromise to support visitors and members of the Club.
14. Following its reclassification as a coastal car park, annual coastal season tickets will be valid in Wicor Recreation car park. These are available at a concessionary rate of £95 per year for Borough residents (equivalent to less than £2 per week).
15. The other main themes in the responses to this consultation stem from the proposal to reclassify Wicor Recreation Ground car park as a coastal car park, rather than the specific charges being considered as part of the proposed Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023.
16. **Impact on surrounding roads and residential areas:** It was noted that the surrounding residential roads are used as 'overspill' parking on days when AFC Portchester matches are at home. Nine respondents expressed concern that the introduction of car parking charges would encourage visitors to Wicor to park on surrounding residential roads at other times.
17. Hampshire County Council have responsibility for on-road parking. They have raised no objections to the proposals.
18. In their letter of support for the proposals, AFC Portchester committed to continue

working with residents on Cranleigh Road to manage parking on match days.

19. **Impact on health of residents and visitors:** Eight respondents objected to the classification of Wicor as a coastal car park, citing that the car park served the recreation ground and did not afford access to the coast.
20. The use of the recreation ground by residents as a place to walk their dogs, exercise and enjoy being outside was raised by twelve respondents. Six of these commented that the introduction of charges in the car park would have a detrimental impact on the physical and mental health of residents.
21. **Impact on AFC Portchester:** The use of Wicor Recreation car park by AFC Portchester was mentioned by ten respondents. Most, but not all, of these respondents felt that charging would negatively impact the football club and their members.
22. The proposed weekend tariff at Wicor Recreation car park was proposed by AFC Portchester and has been set at a level to reflect the length of stay that visitors to and members of the football club park at Wicor to attend football matches.
23. AFC Portchester have written in support of the Draft Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023. They note that the weekend charges represent a fair compromise between the need to explore new revenue streams by the council to continue to effectively manage enforcement across the Borough, and the need to keep additional costs for the football club's players, supporters and staff and volunteers to as minimum a level as possible.
24. **Financial impact:** Seven respondents expressed the view that the introduction of charging at Wicor was purely a money-making exercise on behalf of the Council, with three respondents questioning how the income would be used.
25. Income from car parking is used by Fareham Borough Council to maintain all Council owned car parks and support enforcement activity across the Borough. The Council does not make a profit from car park charges.
26. Three respondents supported the introduction of charging at Wicor, recognising the need to maintain the car park.

Climate Considerations

27. To support the Council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, the pay-and-display machines used in the coastal car parks are solar powered. If approved, the additional three machines in Wicor Recreation car park would allow the Council to avoid 8.82 tCO₂e of Scope 2 emissions which would have been generated by the use of electricity.

The Final Proposed Order

28. Appendix A contains the proposed Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023 for approval. The main provisions are outlined below:
 - a. Introduce charges in Wicor Recreation Car Park of £1.10 per hour between 10am-6pm Monday-Friday, £1.10 for one hour, £2.20 for four hours and £4.40 for eight hours between 10am-6pm Saturday-Sunday;
 - b. Amend the plan for Wicor Recreation Car Park; and

- c. Include Wicor Recreation Car Park as a Coastal Car Park meaning that a Coastal Car Parks Season Ticket may be used in Wicor Recreation Car Park.

Finances

29. The costs of setting up Wicor Recreation Ground as a coastal car park are the purchase of three solar pay-and-display machines, at a total cost of £17,739 plus installation and signage.
30. Based on the income modelling undertaken for this site, the Council would generate £28,211 a year, with a payback period of less than 8 months. The sale of transferable season tickets to AFC Portchester will extend the payback period, but it will remain under 8 months.
31. Enforcement activity and maintenance of the car park would continue to be funded from the existing budget. On street parking is managed by Hampshire County Council enforcement should issues emerge with anti-social parking in surrounding residential streets.

Next Steps

32. If the Amended Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order 2023 is approved, three solar powered pay-and-display machines will be purchased, and signage installed at Wicor Recreation car park to reflect the charges. The Council's website will be updated to ensure that parking information reflects the amended Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 7) Order.
33. The existing pay-by-phone system will be updated to include Wicor Recreation car park. The My Account system and allied correspondence will be updated to include Wicor Recreation car park in the Coastal Season Ticket offer.
34. It is proposed that charges would come into effect on 1 August 2023.

Conclusion

35. Following public consultation, an updated Off-Street Parking Order has been presented for consideration and approval.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Kat Hillman (01329 824443)