

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel

Date **24 January 2024**

Report of: **Head of Environmental Health**

Subject: **Petition - Middle Road Car Park, Parkgate**

SUMMARY

On the 25 September 2023 a petition was received from a local business in Park Gate requesting that the maximum stay in Middle Road Park Gate Car Park be increased from 2 hours to 3 hours.

On 9 October 2023 an announcement was made at the Council's Executive meeting that the petition would be referred to the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel to consider and make a recommendation to the Executive.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel is invited to consider the content of this report and make a recommendation to the Executive regarding the appropriate length of maximum stay in Middle Road Car Park.

INTRODUCTION

1. On the 25 September 2023 a petition was received from a local business in Park Gate requesting that the maximum stay in Middle Road Park Gate Car Park be increased from 2 hours to 3 hours.
2. The petition was organised by a local business in Middle Road and contained 357 signatures.
3. On 9 October 2023 an announcement was made at the Council's Executive meeting that the petition would be referred to the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel to consider and make a recommendation to the Executive. The Panel's recommendation to the Executive will be considered by them at their meeting of 24 March 2024. Any proposed change to the Car Parking Order would be subject to a 21-day public consultation exercise as a minimum.

CAR PARKING REGULATIONS

4. The rules, regulations and restrictions governing Off Street Parking places in Fareham are set out within the Boroughs Off Street Consolidation Order. The Order details all the Councils car parks where restrictions are in place and what those restrictions are. It is an Executive function to determine the Order, although this can be delegated by them to the Executive Member for Public Protection.
5. Several short stay Car Parks around the Borough have a maximum stay period stated within the Order. These maximum stay periods are informed by local circumstances where the individual car parks are sited, these circumstances are usually informed by local residents, councillors, feedback from the Parking and Enforcement Team etc.

MIDDLE ROAD CAR PARK

6. The background to the restrictions at Middle Road Car Park is as follows: -

2007 – 3 Hours Maximum stay

2017 – 2 Hours Maximum Stay

2018 - Introduction of a 4 hour no return
7. The current maximum stay restriction in Middle Road Car Park has been in place since 2017 and in 2018 the 4 hour no return was introduced as at that time it was thought that the turnover of vehicles within the car park wasn't maximising the spaces available for genuine shoppers.
8. Over the last 6 years or so there has been a low level of complaints to the Council and despite regular patrols by the Parking and Enforcement Officers a relatively low level of Parking Charge Notices (PCN's) has been issued. These are as follows:

- 2023 to date 45 PCN's
 - 41 parked longer than permitted.
 - 2 re-parked in the same location (return)
 - 2 beyond bay markings

 - 2022 45 PCN's
 - 35 parked longer than permitted.
 - 6 re-parked in the same location (return)
 - 2 beyond bay markings
 - 2 wrong class of vehicle

 - 2021 34 PCN's
 - 26 parked longer than permitted.
 - 4 re-parked in the same location (return)
 - 3 beyond bay marking.
 - 1 wrong class of vehicle
9. The general feeling is that the car park is functioning well for most businesses and customers in the Middle Road Area. Increasing the minimum stay is likely to increase the number of retail staff parking in the car park for 3 hours each day and would affect the turnover of vehicles overall.
10. The maximum stays in all of the other short stay Council Car Parks can be seen at Appendix A, without going into too much detail as to the justification for each, Middle Road Car Park is a very busy car park, supporting the commercial centre there, the majority of visitors being able to conduct their business within the permitted 2 hours, whilst controlling the risk of employees of those businesses unable to affect the turnover of vehicles in the car parks due to the current restrictions (something we have seen from time to time in other short stay car parks).

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

12. There are 357 on the petition that was submitted, however the level of complaint in recent years about Middle Road Car Park is low as is the level of Parking Charge Notices issued, which indicates most people manage to conduct their business within the current restrictions.

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries: For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman 01329 824773

APPENDIX A

FAREHAM SHORT STAY CAR PARKS MAXIMUM STAYS

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Broadcut | Broadcut | PO16 8ST | 3 hours maximum stay no return 5 hours |
| Broadcut Retail Park | Broadcut | PO16 8SU | 3 hours maximum stay no return 5 hours |
| The Green | Stubbington Green | PO14 2LE | 1-hour maximum stay with 3 hour no return |
| Rear Standen House | Stubbington Lane | PO14 2JY | 1-hour maximum stay with 3 hour no return |
| Stubbington Lane | Stubbington Lane | PO14 2PF | 2 hours maximum stay with no no return |
| Barrys Meadow | Southampton Hill | PO14 4QA | 3 hours maximum stay with no no return |
| Leigh Road | Leigh Road | PO16 7SU | 4 hours maximum stay with no no return |
| Leisure Centre | Park Lane | PO16 7JU | 3 hours maximum stay with no no return |
| Middle Road | Middle Road | SO31 7FR | 2 hours maximum stay with 4 hour no return |
| Community Centre | Burridge Village Hall | SO31 1BS | 2 hours maximum stay with 2 hour no return |
| Meon House | High Street | PO16 7AA | Free no charges permit holders only |
| Warsash Road | Warsash | SO31 9ES | 4 hours maximum stay with 4 hour no return |
| Portchester Precinct | Portchester | PO16 9UX | Long stay part maximum stay 24 hours. Short stay part maximum stay 4 hours |
| Highlands Road shops | Fareham | N/A | 4 hours maximum stay and a 2 hour maximum stay (HCC on-street governed) |