

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 04 March 2023

Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection
Subject:	Petition regarding car parking at Middle Road Car Park Park Gate
Report of:	Director of Neighbourhoods
Corporate Priorities:	Promote Economic Development Responsive, Inclusive and Innovative Council

Purpose:

To consider the appropriate maximum stay in Middle Road Car Park, Park Gate following receipt of a 357-signature petition from a local hair and beauty salon on 25 September 2023.

Executive summary:

A petition was received from a hair and beauty salon from Middle Road in Park Gate in September last year. This petition contained 357 signatures from other local businesses and customers. The petition requested that the maximum stay within the car park be increased from two hours to three hours.

The lead petitioner, in making a deputation at the last Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel, informed the Panel that the reason for the petition was that many of their treatments and services take longer than two hours to complete.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Executive agrees:

- (a) to consider the petition and the recommendation from the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel on 24 January 2024 and advise whether an increase in the maximum stay period in Middle Road Car Park, Park Gate from two to three hours is appropriate, subject to the statutory Traffic Regulation Order consultation process; and
- (b) if necessary, subject to the decision above, to authorise the Executive Member for Health and Public Protection to approve the statutory representation process and subsequent decision on any amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order.

Reason:

The function of short stay car parks around the Borough is to support the economic activity of local businesses. The evidence for an extension to the maximum stay is inconclusive.

Cost of proposals:

There are no costs associated with the proposals in this report.

Appendices: A: FAREHAM SHORT STAY CAR PARKS MAXIMUM STAYS

Background papers: None

Reference papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	04 March 2024
Subject:	Petition regarding car parking at Middle Road Car Park, Park Gate
Briefing by:	Director of Neighbourhoods
Portfolio:	Health and Public Protection

INTRODUCTION

1. On 25 September 2023 a petition was received from a hair salon in Park Gate requesting that the maximum stay in Middle Road Car Park, Park Gate be increased from two hours to three hours because they offer customers several treatments that can take longer than two hours.
2. The petition was organised by a local Hair and Beauty Salon 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 considered the matter at its meeting of 24 January 2024 and recommended to the Executive that the maximum stay in Middle Road Car Park be increased from two hours to three hours.

CAR PARKING REGULATIONS

4. The rules, regulations and restrictions governing off-street parking places in Fareham are set out within the Borough's Off Street Consolidation Order. The Order details all the Council's 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 the Executive to the Executive Member for Health and 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 cited: these circumstances are usually informed by local residents, councillors and feedback from the Parking and Enforcement Team.

PARK GATE LOCAL CENTRE

6. Middle Road Car Park serves the Park Gate Local Centre. It is the third largest retail centre in the Borough, with a total of 57 units and 6,879 sqm floorspace. Only a mile

north of Locks Heath District Centre, Park Gate Local Centre is more orientated towards services which, when the last Retail Health Check was undertaken in 2021, made up over 50% of the occupied units.

MIDDLE ROAD CAR PARK

7. 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

8. The current 2 hour maximum stay restriction in Middle Road Car Park has been in place since 2017. In 2018, the 4 hour no return was introduced as at that time it was considered that the turnover of vehicles within the car park was not maximising the spaces available for genuine shoppers.

9. Over the last six years or so there has been a low level of complaints to the Council and, despite regular patrols by the Parking and Enforcement Officers, relatively few Parking Charge Notices (PCNs) have been issued. These are as follows:

	2021	2022	2023
Parked longer than permitted	26	35	47
Re-parked in the same location (return)	4	6	6
Beyond bay markings	3	2	4
Wrong class of vehicle	1	2	0
Total	34	45	57

10. During February 2024, staff carried out a usage survey of the car park. It has a maximum of 33 parking bays, which include 1 disabled bay. There is also a motorcycle bay. Most visits took place between 10:30 and 17:00 and the table below shows the numbers of vehicles observed on each occasion:-

Date	05/02	06/02	07/02	01/02	02/02	03/02	04/02
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
AM	32	27	16	29	23	21	4
PM	18	20	17	22	20	14	5
Date	12/02	13/02	14/02	08/02	09/02	10/02	11/02
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
AM	24	31	32	31	20	15	11
PM	18	22	19	17	21	6	2

11. Middle Road Car Park is a very busy car park, supporting the commercial centre at Park Gate. This snapshot data demonstrates that the car park is at or near capacity much of the time and the low level of PCNs demonstrates that most visitors appear to be able to conduct their business within the current permitted two hours. In general, therefore, the car park appears to be functioning well for most businesses and customers in the Middle Road area.
12. The maximum stays in all of the other short stay Council Car Parks is set out at Appendix A.
13. Should the Executive wish to amend the restrictions in Middle Road Car Park, the Parking Order would need to be amended. There is a formal process to observe to achieve this, which involves a period of public consultation. The Executive usually delegates the final decision on the Order to the Executive Member for Health and Public Protection.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

CONCLUSION

15. There are 357 signatures on the petition that was submitted. The level of complaints in recent years about Middle Road Car Park is low, as is the level of Parking Charge Notices issued. This indicates that most people are able to conduct their business within the current restrictions. However, the snapshot survey on usage demonstrates that the car park is not often full and the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel has recommended that the Executive considers increasing the maximum stay in Middle Road Car Park from two hours to three hours.

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman on 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	Burrige 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)