

RINGWOOD LONG STAY PARKING/USE OF LORRY PARK

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1. The Town Council, local Chamber of Trade and local Members have expressed concerns about the shortage of long stay parking in the Central Furlong Car Park in Ringwood. Surveys indicate that by 09:00 the car park has reached capacity. This problem is exacerbated by the following:-

1.1.1. Commuters are using the car park as a “park and ride” facility. A recent survey indicates that approximately 22% of those using the long stay car park did not in fact state their final destination as Ringwood.

1.1.2 Secondly the adjoining Waitrose Store is in the process of being extended. This will result in the permanent loss of approximately 20 spaces. Construction of the store extension will take approximately 50 weeks and involve the loss of some 40 spaces.

2. CHAMBER OF TRADE AND TOWN COUNCIL’S REQUEST

2.1 The Chamber of Trade and Town Council have put forward two suggestions which may alleviate this situation.

2.1.1 Firstly that the maximum waiting period in the Ringwood Furlong Long Stay Car Park be eight hours.

2.1.2 Secondly that the lorry park, which is used as a long stay car park during the day, be remarked to a formal car park. This should allow more cars to be accommodated.

3. COMMENTS ON TOWN COUNCIL’S SUGGESTIONS

3.1 The imposition of more restrictive waiting times will make the long stay car park less attractive for those whose final destination is other than Ringwood. If the waiting restrictions were to remove all those whose final destination is not Ringwood some 60 spaces might be freed.

3.2 Attached at Appendix 1 are copies of correspondence received in relation to the proposal.

4. CONSIDERATION OF WAITING RESTRICTIONS

4.1 The imposition of an eight-hour waiting limit will allow those who arrive at 08:00 to stay until 16:00. Those wishing to stay longer will need to move their vehicles to the short stay car park. The Chamber of Trade feel this is acceptable. An 8 hour waiting restriction would cause inconvenience and concern to some employees and businesses. Local employers have written to the Council objecting to the suggestion that long stay be restricted to 8 hours. The reason for this being that staff’s normal working day is between

08:15 and 17:00 a period greater than the 8-hour restriction. Some correspondents have suggested that a 9-hour waiting restriction would accommodate normal working hours and still act as a deterrent. Restrictions in the use of the long stay car park may lead to an increase in on street parking, the extent to which this might happen is not possible to calculate. Reducing waiting times will make the car park less attractive to those whose final destination is not Ringwood.

5. CHANGING MARKINGS IN LORRY BAY TO ACCOMMODATE VEHICLES

- 5.1 During the day up to approximately 80 cars park in the lorry park. If the lorry park were formally marked into car bays it is likely that this number could be increased by approximately 30.
- 5.2 It would be prudent to amend the Parking Order so that lorries could only use the car park between 18:00 hrs and 08:00 hrs; this would help avoid conflict between car and lorry drivers. The Highway Authority has been approached informally and indicates that they would not be averse to this. However, the County consider that the area must be available for lorries to park overnight. There is generally a shortage of lorry parking facilities and the nearest alternatives are already working at maximum capacity.

6. RESERVED PARKING SPACES FOR LOCAL BUSINESS

- 6.1 It is believed there are some business that require and would be willing to pay for a reserved parking space. The availability of such spaces may relieve some of the concerns raised by local business about long stay parking availability in Ringwood and other town Centres. Providing such facilities will have financial and parking management implications which need to be fully investigated before any decision is made.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 If the recommendations of this report are agreed it will be necessary to raise a supplementary estimate to cover the costs of making an amendment order, relining the lorry park and resigning. It is estimated that the cost will be £8000.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Provide more parking opportunities for those who work in Ringwood.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The location of the car park adjacent to the A31 trunk road makes it attractive for park and ride and car sharing. Unfortunately this results in a shortage of long stay parking facilities for those who work in Ringwood. Reducing the waiting times makes the car park less attractive for those not working in Ringwood. Recommendation 10.1.3 proposes a 9-hour restriction this will allow those working an average day to park for all of that period without having to move their vehicles. Although the 8 hour restriction originally suggested would act as a greater deterrent an 9 hour restriction is a compromise to assist those working in the Town. The remarking of the lorry parking area to accommodate cars and restricting lorries to parking between 18:00 and 08:00, will create approximately 30 additional long stay spaces. This may cause inconvenience to some locally based lorry drivers.

11. RECOMMENDATION

- 11.1 That Cabinet agree that the District of New Forest Parking Order (As amended) be further amended to reflect.
- 11.1.1 Allowing lorries to park only between the hours of 18:00 and 08:00 in the existing lorry parking area of Ringwood Car Park..
- 11.1.2 That the area forming the present Ringwood Lorry Park be marked to accommodate cars in order to increase its capacity.
- 11.1.3 Reducing the waiting restriction in the long stay Furlong Car Park to nine hours between 08:00 hrs and 18:00 hrs.
- 11.1.4 That a supplementary estimate of £8,000 be raised to cover the cost of implanting recommendations 11.1.1 to 11.1.3.
- 11.1.5 That Officers investigate the financial and parking management implications of providing reserved parking spaces for use by Local Business.

Further Information:

John Bull
Car Parks Manager
Tel: (023) 8028 5949
Email: john.bull@nfdc.gov.uk

Background Papers:

W:RY/Word/Reports/2004/Ringwood Long Stay Version2.doc
17 June 2004

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Private and Confidential

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Car Parks Manager
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SO41 9ZG

UK Health Insurance
International Health Insurance
Health Screening & Assessment
Critical Illness Insurance
Long Term Disability Insurance
Employee Assistance Programme
Dental Insurance
Managing Attendance

14th June 2004

Dear Mr Bull

I am writing in connection with an article I have read in the Ringwood & Fordingbridge News (issue 374) about the changes Ringwood Town Council would like to make to the parking arrangements in the long stay car park in Ringwood.

As a business in Ringwood, reducing the amount of time you can park in the long stay from 20 hours to 8 hours, would be extremely disruptive. The people in this office work a minimum eight and a half hours each day, often more with overtime. This means the employees would need to leave the office at some point during the day to move their cars from long stay to short stay – what a farce! Why on earth do Ringwood Town Council feel 8 hours a reasonable amount of time? What hours do they work? Are they not in tune with the rest of us workers.

Changing the rules governing the long stay car park would not only be disruptive to existing employees it would also be detrimental I feel to employing new staff. One big bonus to having a business in Ringwood is the attraction of (initially free) low cost car parking. It can be significant when a person is considering working in Ringwood when compared with working in Bournemouth or Southampton.

As someone who uses the long stay car park, I know how frustrating it is when there are no free spaces after 8.40am and you see people parking and then catching a bus to a different location. I therefore appreciate something needs to be done about it. However, I do not think reducing the length of stay to 8 hours is the answer. It will just be inconvenient for a lot of people who genuinely work in Ringwood. By default this therefore effects business and means a company may not look to set up or even stay in Ringwood.

I ask that you seriously think about the suggestions being placed by Ringwood Town Council and how it will effect businesses in Ringwood and thus effect the town overall.

Yours sincerely



Debra Clark
Office Manager
e-mail – debrac@spsmed.com

105 Hightown Road
Ringwood
Hants
BH24 1NL
15.06.04

Dear Mr J Bull,

I am writing to you on behalf of the drivers at Wilts & Dorset stationed at Ringwood Depot, West Street. Parking, as you may be aware, is very limited at the Depot & in the vicinity & a number of drivers do not live locally. We have seen a report in the Ringwood & Fordingbridge News that stated that the length of time that drivers are to be allowed to park in the long stay car park in Ringwood is to be changed. At the present time the drivers can park in the car park for the full length of their duty, if the new reduction to eight hours is introduced then a number of drivers on longer duties will have nowhere to park. Some of the duties operated out of Ringwood are longer than eight hours, the Summertime Specials, the X20 & X21, are all over twelve hours away from Depot, and after fighting to get these runs started from Ringwood so that Ringwood people can have a day out, it now seems that the drivers are to be penalised. I can see that people that actually stay in Ringwood to work all day, such as in shops & offices can move their vehicles in to the short stay car park, but this is not an option to many of the bus drivers. The drivers have purchased the "clocks" so that they are able to use the car parks & now it appears that this is to be taken from them, will a refund be available if the hours are shortened? Please could you consider the problem that this is going to cause the workers at the depot and any other workers that are based in Ringwood but will have problems moving their cars in the allotted time.

Cllr Cracknell does mention that a multi-storey car park was the only answer, & it would appear that with the number of cars on the increase that this may well have to be looked at.

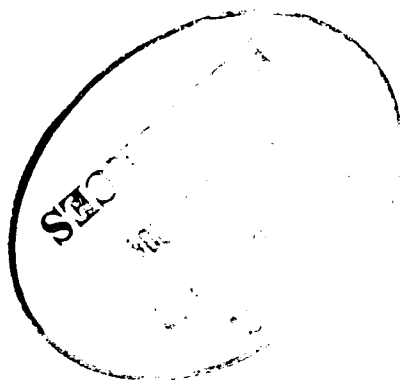
I look forward to hearing from you & hope that something can be done to find a solution to the problem.

Yours sincerely



MR. P.J. COAKLEY

c.c. to Mr D Yates, Cllr Thierry,



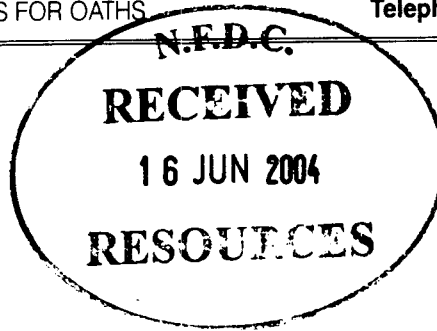
MEESONS

SOLICITORS & COMMISSIONERS FOR OATHS

Telephone Ringwood (01425) 472315

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Your ref.

Our ref.

MQ/SJG/

15 June 2004

Mr. John Bull
New Forest District Council
DX 123010
LYNDHURST 2

Dear Sir

Shortening of hours in long stay car park

As a firm, we are very concerned as to the proposal that the permitted time for parking in the long stay car park be reduced to 8 hours, so that people who work in Ringwood must all move their cars after 8 hours of parking and move to the short stay car park for the rest of their working day.

I enclose a copy of the letter, which I wrote to the Town Councillors on the 4th June, and a copy of the further letter I have sent to them today.

Yours faithfully

Meesons

Encs.



**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

MQ/SJG/

04 June 2004

Dear

Shortening of hours in long stay car park

I am a solicitor in the partnership of Meesons practising from the office in Ringwood Market Place.

The staff have provided me with the article in the Journal which states the maximum time to be allowed in the long stay car park is to be reduced to eight hours.

Obviously this will cause tremendous problems for us and other businesses in Ringwood as our staff are in Ringwood for over eight hours each working day. They arrive about 8:15 am to ensure a space in the long stay car park and leave at 5:15 pm. Even if they decide not to shop in Ringwood after the working day they still need to be allowed to park for nine hours.

Would you please explain where people working full-time in Ringwood are supposed to park. The Council seem to be getting more and more against people working in Ringwood.

I joined Meesons in 1972 and for many years thereafter there was an area off Strides Lane, Ringwood to be a public car park, but even though there is a shortage of parking spaces the Local Authority has allowed this to be built upon. This should never have been allowed to happen as it is exactly where parking spaces were badly needed.

It is time the Council opened its eyes to reality. WE NEED MORE CAR PARKING SPACES. Limiting people's ability to work and live in Ringwood is not the answer. We want Ringwood to flourish and not be restricted.

cont'd/.....

I am pleased the policy for new buildings is that they should be in the character of the town and not all uniformed and modern. I was present at the Town Assembly and was very interested by the talk given by the speaker from the NFDC. However, more parking must be found.

Personally, I felt the old Somerfield site should have been compulsorily purchased and created into a multi-storey car park. However, that chance has been missed and the only answer I can see is for the present long stay car park to be made into a multi-storey. This is how more car parking spaces were created at the Tesco car park in Ferndown.

In the meantime please extend the time allowed in the long stay car park to nine hours.

Yours faithfully

**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

MQ/SJG/

15 June 2004

The Editor
Ringwood & Fordingbridge News
PO Box 908
RINGWOOD
BH24 1YL

Dear Sir

Shortening of hours in long stay car park

I refer to my letter of the 4th June written on headed notepaper and my partners have asked me to inform you that my letter should be treated as being from the firm.

We have discussed the proposed limitation to parking in the long stay car park and the proposal that after 8 hours in the long stay car park people should be able to move to the short stay car park for up to 3 hours.

The firm wishes to object to this strongly, as it will result in a lot of loss of hours to this firm and therefore affect the firm's finances. If 10 members of staff leave the office every afternoon for 20 minutes to move their cars, that is 1,000 minutes per week or 52,000 per annum - or 866½ hours. 3 members of the staff are solicitors and this will have a substantial affect on this business.

If you need to bring in a limit to the long stay car park, we would ask you to make this 9 hours and not 8 hours. This would still cause a problem for people who come from outside of the area and park in our car park to catch other transport out of Ringwood, as people from Bournemouth and Wimborne working an ordinary office week would require 10 hours.

As an alternative to this, we suggest that parking permits be issued to those who work full-time in the town centre of Ringwood. Presumably the employers will be paying business tax to assist in deciding whether someone is a genuine employer.

cont'd/.....

This does not get away from the fact that Ringwood just does not have enough car parking spaces and we need more, and we cannot see why anyone would object to the long stay car park being made into a multi-storey. There are a lot more people in this country from when I first started working in 1972 and not surprisingly, as there are more people there is a greater need for car parking spaces. I can quite understand people in big cities where there are underground trains and monorails being expected to use public transport, but this is not practical in Ringwood. The bus service is not good. Last year we had a lady from Verwood working for us who relied upon the bus service and she was regularly having to telephone to say that the bus had not turned up and she was having to wait for the next one or she was having to try to find someone to bring her in by car. Also it is necessary for some of the staff to have their cars so that they are able to go out on business, for example, to the Court or to our other office in Fordingbridge, to other solicitors and hospitals as well as clients at their homes.

Has the Council thought of making the old Wellworthy site into a car park and requiring that coach operators have their pick-up points from there. I cannot see that it would be much further for the National Coaches and Excelsior to pick up their passengers. This may mean widening the road slightly at the little round-a-bout where Castleman Way, Christchurch Road and Bickerley Road all meet by the Salvation Army Hall, but it would seem an answer. It would also be an advantage to have a supermarket built there and perhaps some entertainment, for example, ten-pin bowling, ice skating rink, multi-screen cinema, quasar, a large factory type unit done up with children's activities like Guss's Jungle in Poole, but larger and for varying age groups. This I feel would bring prosperity to Ringwood, as we would then have something to offer tourists, rather than just looking round the quaint town and market place and having a meal. We might even find the need of a hotel in such complex. It could be laid out with gardens and trees, so that it is attractive. In view of its past industrial use, I doubt if it will ever be looked on favourably for residential building. This would not just benefit tourists but also others including a lot of fathers who no longer live with their children who have access to their children and need to take them out as often such fathers do not have a home to take them back to. Therefore entertainment in the locality is important and particularly the type which is under cover for when it is raining.

I would ask you to reconsider the limiting of parking in the long stay car park so that 9 hours is permitted, or alternatively that business permits be provided to allow for longer parking to people who work in Ringwood on a full-time basis.

Yours faithfully

Wilts & Dorset Bus Company Ltd.,
Bus Station,
1 Dolphin Centre,
Poole, Dorset BH15 1SN
Telephone: (01202) 673555
Fax No: (01202) 339206

Mr D Yeats
Chief Executive
N. F. D. C.
Appletree Court
Lyndhurst
SO43 7PA

16 June, 2004
JT/WMC/GEN1606

Dear Sir

I read with disappointment in the Ringwood and Fordingbridge News that Ringwood Town Council have agreed to limit the stay in the lorry park at Ringwood to 8 hours.

My concern is for many of our drivers who operate from our Ringwood Depot and use the Lorry Park for periods of ten and a half-hours.

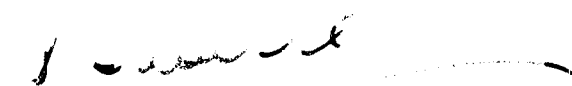
Parking at our Ringwood Depot in West Street is at an all time high with not all members of staff being able to park their vehicles on our premises. Paying £5.00 for a permit allowe our staff to utilise the Lorry Park without having to worry about time restrictions.

It is likely that our services in the Ringwood area will increase in the future, and the likelihood of me being able to recruit drivers to operate these services would be hampered by the parking situation.

I appreciate cars could be moved after eight hours to the three hour car park, many of my drivers, however, would not be in the Ringwood area to avail themselves of that arrangement.

I should be grateful if consideration could be given to extending the hours in the Lorry Park as I am sure many business people in Ringwood use this facility, and work longer than an eight hour day.

Yours faithfully



John Thorne
Depot Manager (Poole)