








EXECUTIVE SUMMARY –

Summary of Purpose and Recommendations:

The consideration of representations made concerning the Draft District OF New Forest (off-Street Parking Places) (Amendment)(No2) Order 2005 the effect of the draft order, if confirmed, being to introduce Sunday charging into all charged town and village car parks.
The Recommendation being that the Draft Order be confirmed .

Cost to Council: £3000 set up cost , Income £20,000pa **Within existing budget?** Expenditure Yes
Income No

Contribution to Corporate Plan (Minor/Moderate/Major/Neutral):

	+		-		+		-
		Neutral		Priorities			
	Minor			Clean Streets and Public Space		Neutral	
		Neutral		Crime and Disorder	Minor	Neutral	
		Neutral		Housing		Neutral	
		Neutral		Managing our Finances	Mod		

Comments on Impacts on Corporate Objectives and Priorities:

CABINET – 2 MARCH 2005 - PORTFOLIO HOLDER ECONOMY AND PLANNING

REPORT ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED CONCERNING THE ADVERTISED DRAFT DISTRICT OF NEW FOREST (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT) (NO 2) ORDER 2005

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 2nd January Cabinet approved the advertisement of the above draft order. The effect of the Draft Order being to extend the charging period to include Sundays in all charged Town and Village Car Parks. At the present time all Amenity car parks are charged on Sundays during the period 1 March to 31 October, as are the Town/Village Car parks in Lyndhurst, Burley, Beaulieu and Milford on Sea. The reasons for this change are twofold, firstly to introduce consistent and easily understood parking regulations throughout the District and secondly to generate additional income.

2. OBJECTIONS RECEIVED AND COMMENTS

- 2.1 As part of the order making process cabinet must consider all representations received concerning the advertised Draft Amendment Order before any final decisions are made. Details of all representations received are set out below together with consideration of the issues raised.

- 2.2 Representations received.

- 2.2.1 Brockenhurst Parish Council.

The Parish Council have made the following representation:

“This measure was considered at last Tuesday's PC meeting and the Councillors were not in favour as it is felt that it will encourage on-street parking which will clog up the village roads. If it is introduced the single yellow line in Brookley Road should be altered to include Sundays and Bank Holidays or it should be a double line”.

Comment.

The major problems of on street parking problems in Brockenhurst have been caused by commuters and those attending the nearby College, this problem does not arise on Sundays. Given that the majority of residents and regular visitors will have a parking clock it is believed that it is unlikely that a significant number of motorists would avoid paying the charges by parking on the Highway. In the event of this happening consideration will be given to amending the On Street regulations to the effect that on street waiting restrictions apply on Sundays.

2.2.2 Fordingbridge Town Council.

The Town Council have made the following representation:

“With reference to the letter from Democratic Services dated 13 January 2005, the Fordingbridge Town Council are very strongly opposed to the proposals.

They do not wish to see any changes and would like the status quo to remain. For towns the size of Fordingbridge it is very important to encourage the tourists to stay and not turn them away with Sunday and Bank Holiday charging”.

Comment.

Sunday charging is becoming increasingly commonplace particularly in Tourists areas. Where charging within the District are already in force on a Sunday there appears to be no evidence that it has lead to a reduction in tourist activity.

2.2.3 Hale Parish Council.

The Parish Council made the following representation.

“Hale Parish Council is strongly opposed to any further car park charges being brought in to cover Sundays and Bank Holidays. The reasons are given below;

- The Council considers that in most areas parking is free on Sundays and Bank Holidays and should remain so over New Forest District.
- To administer a charging regime for Sundays and Bank Holidays would be expensive and that the monitory gains would be outweighed by public hostility”.

Comment.

The comments general concern about charging on Sundays are as set out in 2.2.2 above. The costs of wardening will be kept within existing budget provision and will be undertaken within existing establishment and shift patterns.

2.2.4 Hythe.

Representations came from the Parish Council and Town Centre Advisory Group.

The Parish Councils Representations are set out below.

“New Forest District Council be informed that there should be no extended parking charges in Hythe until residents are given a free parking clock”.

Comment.

The price of parking clocks is determined as part of the Council's normal budget setting process, those who have purchased and display a valid clock will be able to park without any additional charge on Sundays.

2.2.5 Hythe Centre Advisory group.

The Advisory groups Comments are set out below:

"Whilst the implementation of the proposal would not have an adverse effect on the viability and economy of Hythe, it was felt the cost of introducing and policing the system would not be cost effective to the Council".

Comments.

The comments set out in 2.2.4 cover the concerns raised. When the initial consultations concerning the present clock/charging scheme were undertaken the Hythe Business Partnerships commented.

"From a business point of view we are surprised that the council is not intending to charge at all times. Given that only visitors need pay and that weekends see most visitors we would have thought a simple system of say 50p after 6.00pm or all day Sunday would raise additional revenue. Enforcement is immaterial, if 80% pay its better than nothing at all".

In order to try and maintain simplicity of signing and reduce confusion it is proposed to keep a single tariff structure applying to each day of the week.

2.2.6 Ringwood Town Council.

The Ringwood Town Council's comments are set out below:

"In response to Lynne Battersby's letter of 13 January 2005, this Town Council objects to the principle of introducing car parking charges and imposing "short-stay" waiting restrictions on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Members consider that the proposals are not relevant to Ringwood and believe that they are an unnecessary distraction from the real parking issues that need to be dealt with in the town.

Members were also concerned that the proposals would have an adverse impact on organisations using the Furlong car park for events such as car boot sales and farmers markets, and as a meeting place for car rallies.

In the event that the District Council does introduce the proposed amendments, provision should be made for the continuation of the use of the car parks by voluntary and charitable organisations".

Comments.

In order to maintain consistency and avoid the confusion that occurs at the present time all Town/Village car parks have been included in the proposal. The decision to recommend that the same waiting restrictions apply on Sundays as all other days of the week is to avoid the need for unnecessary and confusing signage. There is no shortage of long stay parking on Sundays in any of our Town/Village centers with the possible exception of Lyndhurst during the summer.

At the present time charities use car parks free of charge on Sundays and Bank Holidays. These events include Car Boot Sales, Charity Fairs and similar activities. The Portfolio holder has considered this matter and decided that this practice can continue subject to the existing conditions being enforced. These include the event not being open to traders and proof of Public Liability Insurance. The only additional condition which would be applied, if the Draft Amendment Order is confirmed, would be to ask organisers to define the area being used for the event.

2.2.7 Lymington & Pennington Town Council.

The Town Council have made the following representations:

“We do not agree with blanket charging for all car parks in Lymington on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Firstly, Lymington is a tourist town and visitors should be encouraged at all times. Secondly, there are many fund raising events, which take place on the Town Hall car parks on those days, which would not be viable if charging was in operation.

We also do not support “short-stay” waiting restrictions on Sundays and Bank Holidays. We have considered the car parking charges exercise, which was to be reviewed over a year and recommend that firstly there should be three hour parking in short stay bays. Because of the building of many new developments and those proposed in the immediate town, which consist of mostly flats with limited parking spaces there will be a need for more parking. In the Local Plan 10 years ago it was recognised that Lymington was 90 parking spaces short. Since then, parking spaces have been reduced i.e. new medical centre behind the Town Hall which results in Social services now taking places in the New Forest District Council car park and disabled users spaces which are generally empty.

We would suggest that Lymington is recommended for a multi-storey car park which could be built behind the Town Hall and incorporate a coach park on the upper deck (a facility which has been recognised for many years is lacking if Lymington is to continue to be viable tourist attraction). We welcome a response to our observations”.

Comments.

The representations made which relate to the Statutory Consultation concerning the Draft Amendment Order namely, the possible effect on tourism, the holding of charitable events and concerns about waiting

restrictions have already been considered in sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.6 of this report.

Consideration of the additional comments raised will be undertaken by Officers and the Portfolio Holder and a reply sent to the Town Council .

3. CONSENT OF HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

3.1 The Highway Authority, Hampshire County Council have given their consent to the proposals set out in the Draft Parking Order .

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. The estimated additional income is £20,000 pa. A one off cost of no more than £3,000 for signing will be incurred and contained within existing budgets. Any enforcement undertaken will be done during the course of normal duties.

5. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 Of the 37 Parish Councils consulted representations have been received from 6. The key concerns expressed by all those who have made representations have been addressed in this report. There appear to be no overriding problems which would prevent the Cabinet from confirming the order.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 That Cabinet confirm the Draft District Of New Forest (off-Street Parking Places) (Amendment) (No 2) Order 2005 which has the effect of introducing charges on Sundays to all existing charged Town and Village Car Parks.

For Further Information:

John Bull
Parking Manager
Tel: 023 8028 5949

Background: