

## PARKING CLOCK SCHEME

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Cabinet to make recommendations to Council concerning the continuance of the clock parking scheme and the setting of future charges.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A parking clock scheme was first introduced in January 2004 and has evolved as a key tool in managing the Council's 50 Off Street Car Parks. The Scheme needs to be approved by the Highway Authority, Hampshire County Council. The County's existing agreement for the scheme runs until 31 December 2007. This Council needs to seek the County's agreement for the continuance of the scheme and agreement on future charges. In order for the Clock scheme to be properly managed and have legal standing it has to be incorporated in the District of New Forest (off Street Parking Places) Order 2005. This requires a legal process to be followed.

### 3. THE EXISTING SCHEME

- 3.1 The scheme in its existing format commenced in January 2006. In essence the Scheme provides for the following:
- Gives the opportunity for short stay clocks to be purchased for £8 which permit up to 3 hours parking in town car parks,
  - Gives the opportunity for Long stay clocks to be purchased for £80 which permit up to 20 hours parking (where parking regulations permit) in any Council car park.
  - Special arrangements have been put in place for users of the Hythe Ferry, Lyndhurst Community Centre and Beaulieu Village Hall.
  - The short stay clock can be supplemented for long stay parking by the acquisition of an additional pay and display ticket.

#### PARKING CLOCK SALES 2004 - 2007

Type of Clock	2004	2005	2006	2007 Budget
Combined Long/short stay	65,966	59,974		
Short Stay			47,657	47,260
Yearly Long Stay			1,540	1,603
Half-Yearly Long Stay			1,350	1,187
Hythe Ferry			1,158	1,128
Lyndhurst Community Centre			774	774
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65,966</b>	<b>59,974</b>	<b>52,479</b>	<b>51,952</b>

The table demonstrates a constant high demand for clocks.

#### **4. HYTHE FERRY**

- 4.1 In order to encourage the use of the ferry, and thereby reduce commuter traffic between Southampton and the Waterside, those who purchase a ferry season ticket or multiple ferry tickets can purchase a Hythe ferry clock at a cost of £8. This entitles the holder to all the benefits of a District Wide Short Stay Clock plus the ability to park long stay in Hythe. Approximately 1100 of these clocks have been sold. *There are on going discussions with the Ferry Company and Hampshire County Council concerning parking and on-going support for ferry. As result of these separate proposals ferry parking may be considered later this year.*

#### **5. LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE CLOCK**

- 5.1 Lyndhurst Community Centre has no parking facilities of its own and is therefore reliant on the Council car park. The Centre provides a valuable resource to the local community but constantly needs to work hard to attract users to maintain its financial viability. In order to assist the future viability of the centre a special clock can be purchased which entitles the holder to all the benefits of a District wide short stay clock plus the ability to park in Lyndhurst for up to 5 hours.

#### **6. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING SCHEME**

- 6.1 The scheme remains well used and accounts for more than half the off street parking acts in District off street car parks. Stability has been achieved because the scheme has remained the same for two consecutive years. This has resulted in the administration of the scheme becoming easier as staff and customers have become familiar with the regulations and practical issues involved.
- 6.2 The scheme provides considerable flexibility to motorists as clocks can be used in any vehicle and in a wide range of car parks. However this does mean that successful operation of the scheme is dependent on clocks being displayed in accordance with the regulations.

#### **7. CONSIDERATION OF SCHEME FOR 2008 AND FUTURE YEARS**

- 7.1 In order to ensure all regulations are made and permissions granted to allow the scheme to continue into 2008 and beyond the following timetable needs to be adopted.
- 7.1.1 Cabinet on 2 July 2007 make recommendations to Council setting future clock charges and requesting Hampshire County Council to agree an extension of the clock scheme until 31 December 2009.
- 7.1.2 Subject to Council agreement, Hampshire County Council is formally requested to agree an extension of the clock scheme until 31 December 2009. Subject to HCC agreement, new charges are formally publicised.
- 7.1.3 1 November 2007 clocks go on sale.

7.2 Cabinet should note that if any amendments to the structure of the clock scheme other than simple up-rating of charges are proposed, an amendment to the order would need to be formally advertised, a statutory period for public representation would follow, and all comments received would have to be formally considered. This would extend the timetable set out above.

## 8. COUNTY COUNCIL AGREEMENT

8.1 As previously stated the County Council as Highway Authority need to agree the extension of clock scheme before it can be incorporated into our Parking Order. It is hoped that County will be able to give their agreement at the Executive Member Meeting on the 11 September 2007.

8.2 Following discussions at the joint officers "New Forest Parking Charges Working Group" County Officers consider it would be prudent to recommend that the existing scheme run until December 2009 with a review to cover the period of the existing Local Transport Plan which runs until 2011.

## 9. COST OF CLOCKS FOR 2008

9.1 Clock fees have remained at the same level for the years 2006 and 2007. For speed of distribution it is considered desirable for the cost of the clock to be kept in whole pounds.

9.2 Setting the cost of clocks involves a careful balance taking into account

- the value of the service provided
- the need to encourage the use of public transport where available and
- the need to maintain the economic viability of our town and village centres

Given the above Cabinet may wish to consider the following fee options for a two year period commencing 1 January 2008. A two year settlement would reassure those who purchase clocks of the continued stability in the scheme and reduce administrative costs.

Option 1

Type of Clock	2007 Fee	Option 1 Fee 2008 price
Short stay clocks	£8	£9
Lyndhurst Community C't Clocks	£8	£9
Hythe Ferry Clocks	£8	£9
Long Stay Clocks full Year	£80	£80
Long stay Clocks Half Year	£44	£44

## Option 2

Type of Clock	2007 Fee	Option 2 Fee 2008 price
Short stay clocks	£8	£10
Lyndhurst Community C't Clocks	£8	£10
Hythe Ferry Clocks	£8	£10
Long Stay Clocks full Year	£80	£80
Long stay Clocks Half Year	£44	£44

## 10. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SCHEME

10.1 The Council is considering the introduction of on street charging as part of its overall Traffic Management strategy. It is likely that the clock scheme will be a key element in this. If the Council decide to introduce selective on street charges a review of the clock scheme will need to be undertaken. Minor amendments to the scheme may be recommended following discussions with the Hythe Ferry operator. However, as previously stated, any changes to the scheme other than simple amendment of charges would bring the extended procedure set out in paragraph 7.2 into play.

## 11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The expected increase in income for 2008 if option 1 as set out in 9.2 is adopted will be £42,000 and if option 2 is adopted the expected increase will be £84,000.

## 12. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The clock scheme provides for parking at a price which should help our Town and Village Centres to remain competitive. The Scheme helps maximise the use of existing space and encourages consideration of alternative forms of transport to the car.

## 13. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None.

## 14. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

14.1 The parking clock scheme provides those from rural areas with limited access to public transport with reasonably priced parking.

## 15. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

15.1 The Portfolio Holder agrees with the recommendations in this report.

## **16. RECOMMENDATION**

- 16.1 That, after consideration of the options set in section 9.2 of this report the Council be recommended to agree that the District of New Forest (off Street Parking Places) Order 2005 be amended to reflect Cabinet's preferred option for the clock fee and this should remain in force for a two year period commencing 1 January 2008.
- 16.2 That the Council be recommended to agree that the Highway Authority, Hampshire County Council, be requested to grant permission for the New Forest District Council Parking Clock Scheme to be incorporated into the District of New Forest (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2005 until 31 December 2009.
- 16.3 That the Council be recommended to agree that Hampshire County Council be requested to agree to the fees as set out in the preferred option.

### **Further Information:**

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