

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 24 October 2005)

1. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DISTRICT OF NEW FOREST (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER - REPRESENTATIONS (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 59).

At its meeting on 13 September 2005 Council approved the publication of proposals to amend the Council's Off-Street Parking Places Order, to reflect changes to the current scheme as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

The proposals are a step in the Council's long term strategy for car parking and transport generally. In line with Government policy, this aims to encourage more effective traffic management, including encouraging travellers to consider alternative methods of transport than the car. The introduction of the District-wide clock in particular is part of this strategy. It is also important to encourage the use of town and village shops and amenities to keep town and village centres vibrant, while discouraging congestion in long stay car parks, hence the proposal to maintain a low cost short stay clock.

The proposals have been advertised in the local press and in car parks, and statutory consultees, Town and Parish Councils and Chambers of Trade have been consulted.

Hampshire County Council has now consented to the proposals. The consent is for a period of two years (1 January 2006 to 31 December 2007) in respect of the proposed new parking clock system.

On 13 September 2005 Council also approved the Cabinet's recommendations that consultations be undertaken with Hythe Ferry owners and Hythe and Dibden Parish Council with a view to establishing special arrangements for Hythe Ferry users, and that consultations also be undertaken with Community Centres where users are reliant on Council-owned off street car parks, with a view to establishing special arrangements to assist appropriate Community Centre users.

In respect of Hythe Ferry users, consultations have taken place and as a result it is proposed that a Hythe Ferry clock be available from Hythe Pier to those who purchase 10-journey, monthly, three monthly or annual tickets for the ferry. The proposed cost of a Hythe Ferry clock is £8 a year. It will be valid for parking on the same terms as a shoppers' clock (ie for up to 3 hours in any town or village car park), but will also be valid for long-stay parking in the long-stay car parks in Hythe.

Neither Lyndhurst Community Centre nor Beaulieu Village Hall have their own parking, and users are reliant on the Council car parks. Following consultation with them, the following solutions are therefore proposed.

In Lyndhurst it is proposed that Community Centre users will be able to purchase a Lyndhurst Community Centre clock from the Centre, for the same price as the shoppers' clock (£8). Like the Hythe Ferry clock, this will permit parking for up to 3 hours in any town or village car park. However, it will be valid for up to 5 hours parking in the Lyndhurst long stay car park.

In Beaulieu a similar arrangement is not practicable as the Village Hall does not have arrangements in place for selling clocks. Instead, it is proposed that a voucher system be introduced whereby Hall users will be issued with a date-stamped voucher by the Hall. Display of the voucher, in conjunction with the standard shoppers' parking clock, will mean that the vehicle concerned will not incur an excess or penalty charge for the first 5 hours of its stay in the Beaulieu car park.

On the question of the public consultation generally, over 140 representations on the proposals were received. These were set out in a lengthy report which the Cabinet has now considered. It is worth noting that the level of representations received is equivalent to only 0.216% of the clocks issued this year. Many of the representations related to the proposed charges for the clocks, in particular the District-wide clock. However, Cabinet considers that the proposed cost of £80 a year (£44 a half year) represents very good value. It permits unlimited use of all the Council's car parks (subject to existing restrictions applying in individual car parks) for just over £1.50 a week. This is much lower than the cost of long stay parking in neighbouring Council areas. Some representations referred to fears of displacement parking on streets, and the fact that purchase of a clock does not guarantee a parking space. When the Council takes over management of all parking enforcement in January 2006 it will be better placed to address any problems caused by displacement parking, and to examine further measures to increase parking opportunities.

The issue of security of the District-wide clock when displayed in windscreens was also raised. Some Council car parks are covered by CCTV, and clocks will only need to be displayed during the day-time. However, the question of security will be examined in the light of experience and, if necessary, consideration will be given to whether security measures could be introduced without compromising the flexibility given by the proposed scheme, which allows clocks to be transferred between vehicles.

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That, the representations on the advertised proposals having been considered, officers be authorised to amend the District of New Forest (Off Street Parking Places) Order with effect from 1 January 2006 to:**
- (i) reflect the proposals set out in Appendix 1 to this report; and**
 - (ii) include further modifications to:**
 - (1) introduce a Hythe Ferry clock at a cost of £8 a year or part thereof, to allow parking on the same terms as a shoppers' parking clock, plus long-stay parking in the long stay car parks in Hythe; (this clock may be purchased only from Hythe Pier at the same time as a 10 journey, monthly, three monthly or annual ticket for the Hythe Ferry);**

- (2) ***introduce a Lyndhurst Community Centre parking clock at a cost £8 a year or part thereof, to allow parking on the same terms as a shoppers' parking clock, including parking for up to 5 hours in the long stay car park in Lyndhurst; (this clock may be purchased only from Lyndhurst Community Centre by Centre users);***
- (3) ***remove the provision that requires motorists with a shoppers' parking clock who wish to park for more than three hours to return to the car park at the end of three hours and buy a ticket from the ticket machine for the additional period (instead, a ticket for the balance of the period over 3 hours may be purchased from a ticket machine on arrival at the car park and displayed together with the clock);***
- (b) ***That, in the Council's view, the modifications set out at recommendation (a)(ii) above are not substantial changes to the advertised proposals such as to require further advertisement and a further period of public representation;***
- (c) ***That users of the Beaulieu Village Hall not be subject to excess or penalty charges or required to purchase a parking ticket, where they display a valid shoppers' parking clock in conjunction with a date stamped voucher (relevant for the day in question) provided by the Council and issued by the Village Hall and the period of their stay in the Beaulieu car park does not exceed 5 hours; and***
- (d) ***That, in response to the representations received on the draft proposals, the consideration and proposed action set out in Appendices 2 and 3 to Report A to the Cabinet be endorsed.***

**Cllr M J Kendal
CHAIRMAN**

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MAIN DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DISTRICT OF NEW FOREST (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER

1. To replace the current town and village centre parking clock scheme with the following:
 - (a) a shoppers' parking clock, at a cost of £8 for the 2006 calendar year or part thereof which, if properly displayed, enables a vehicle to be parked without further payment for up to 3 hours (subject to the terms of the District of New Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) Order) in any town or village centre (but not amenity) car park
 - (b) a District wide parking clock, at a cost of £80 for the 2006 calendar year or part thereof, or £44 for the 6 month periods commencing 1 January or 1 July 2006 or part thereof, which, if properly displayed, enables a vehicle to be parked without further payment for any period (subject to the terms of the District of New Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) Order) in any town or village centre, or any amenity, car park.

Both types of parking clock will be transferable between vehicles.

2. To provide that in the following "short stay" car parking areas, the maximum period for which vehicles may wait between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm will be increased from 2 hours to 3 hours: Hythe - Jones Lane, New Road; Lymington - Cannon Street East, Cannon Street West, Emsworth Road, Gosport Street, Southampton Road, St Thomas Street; Lyndhurst; Milford-on-Sea - Sea Road; New Milton - Elm Avenue, Osborne Road, Spencer Road North, Spencer Road South.
3. To vary the charges for amenity car park permits as follows:

Category of applicant	Previous charge (1 March to 31 October 2005)	Proposed charge (1 March to 31 October 2006)
Residents of New Forest District	£38.00 per permit	£45.00 per permit
Non-residents of New Forest District	£44.00 per permit	£50.00 per permit
Additional registration on same permit (maximum 2 vehicles)	£5.50 per permit	£6.00 per permit
Replacement permit	£5.50 per permit	£6.00 per permit