

HYTHE CAR PARKING

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report addresses the current and future car parking provision in Hythe Town Centre. Car parking spaces have been monitored over the past 5 months, focussing on the transitional phase between the closure of the St John's Street Car Park and the alternative provision provided at the new supermarket.

2. BACKGROUND TO CAR PARKING ARRANGEMENTS IN HYTHE TOWN CENTRE

- 2.1 Historically the council operated three main car parks in Hythe town centre:

Jones Lane
St John's Street
New Road

This was, and is, currently supplemented by private parking available at both Waitrose and the marina, in addition to a significant amount of on-street parking around the town

- 2.2 In 2018 St John's Street car park was sold to provide a site for a Lidl supermarket. Prior to the sale the Council's position was that they would not provide any additional parking as there was capacity in the other two car parks. This would however be reviewed once the supermarket had been completed and was fully operational so the need for any future provision could be assessed

3. CURRENT AVAILABILITY AND MONITORING

- 3.1 The availability of parking spaces in Hythe village centre car parks has been monitored on a regular basis by the Enforcement Officers. These results can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 These results are taken from the Enforcement Officers' findings, which were taken at various times across all days of the week. They confirm that although car parking availability does come under pressure on a Tuesday (Market Day in Hythe) there are large numbers of available spaces across the Council's two car parks on the other days of the week. Latest figures still confirm that there are spaces available in both car parks in the week before Christmas – traditionally a busy period in the parking calendar.
- 3.3 The monitoring that has been carried out has indicated there is not a demand for additional parking over 7 days. Also, 104 spaces additional spaces will become available in the town centre when the supermarket becomes operational early in the New Year and this will further increase overall capacity.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no current financial implications

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report

6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no crime or disorder implications associated with this report.

7. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The Panel is asked to recommend to the Portfolio Holder that, following recent monitoring, no additional car parking spaces are required in the council-owned car parks in Hythe at this present time. Following the opening of the new Lidl store monitoring will continue and an update presented to this Panel by the end of 2019, to understand if the new store's opening is impacting on car parking in Hythe

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Background Papers:

Attached