

**PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION –
11 SEPTEMBER 2020**

CHANGES TO SHORT AND LONG STAY SPACES IN WINSOR ROAD, CIVIC CENTRE AND WESTFIELD ROAD CAR PARKS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF CHARGES IN CIVIC CENTRE AND WESTFIELD ROAD CAR PARKS, TOTTON

1. ITEM FOR DECISION

- 1.1 That an amendment to the District of New Forest (Off-Street Car Parking Places) Order 2005 be advertised to the effect that:
- 1.2 Civic Centre car park: All Long Stay spaces (20 hours) be changed to Short Stay spaces (3 hours no return within 2 hours) and charges apply as follows:
- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 1 hour | £1.00 |
| 2 hours | £2.00 |
| 3 hours | £2.50 |
- 1.3 Westfield Road car park: 40 Long Stay spaces (20 hours) be changed to Short Stay spaces (3 hours no return within 2 hours). All other Long Stay spaces remain and charges apply as follows:
- | | | |
|----------|-------|----------------|
| 1 hour | £1.00 | |
| 2 hours | £2.00 | |
| 3 hours | £2.50 | |
| 4 hours | £3.00 | Long stay only |
| 5 hours | £4.00 | Long stay only |
| 20 hours | £5.00 | Long stay only |
- 1.4 Winsor Road car park: All spaces changed to Short Stay spaces (3 hours no return within 2 hours) and charges apply as follows:
- | | |
|---------|-------|
| 1 hour | £1.00 |
| 2 hours | £2.00 |
| 3 hours | £2.50 |

2. CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 Totton and Eling Town Council have paid NFDC an annual sum to keep the NFDC owned Civic Centre and Westfield Road car parks in Totton town centre free for around 18 years. This amount covered the business rates on these 2 car parks but did not cover maintenance, administration or enforcement costs associated with their operation.
- 2.2 The Town Council pay a sum of £28,000 which is equivalent to the Business Rate charges paid out by New Forest District Council for these two car parks annually, no financial reimbursement has been received for the loss of parking income which would have been received by the District Council since car park charges were introduced district wide in 2003.
- 2.3 The effect of this is that the District Council have been subsidising these two car parks in Totton to enable that town to have free parking in the town centre. This arrangement is not available to other Towns or Parishes.

- 2.4 This inequality needs to be addressed and as Totton and Eling Town Council have stated their intention to withdraw from this annual payment it is now right and proper that the town centre car parks in Totton fit into the charging regime in force throughout the district. To date no payment has been received for 2020/21.
- 2.5 In 2018 a parking survey was carried out by Alpha Parking, an independent Parking Specialist. The conclusions from this survey revealed that:
- The results do not indicate overall capacity issues in the car parks, but several of them (Civic Centre, Elingfield, War Memorial and Winsor) come under sustained pressure on weekdays, others such as Rumbridge Street are underutilised.
 - There were no capacity issues in the car parks identified from the Saturday survey.
 - Some of the car parks, particularly Elingfield and Rumbridge Street are significantly affected by commuter parking but, overall, commuters only account for 13.3% of those interviewed in the car parks, compared with 26.8% who were shoppers.
 - Commuters are likely to stay for two to three times as long as shoppers and may for that reason make a greater contribution to the overall demand for parking.
- 2.6 It is clear from the parking survey that overall capacity is not an issue in Totton. What needs to be addressed is the balance between short and long-term parking and making all our district town and village car parks equitable in their contribution to managing these assets for the future.

3. BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES.

- 3.1 Changing spaces from Long Stay to Short Stay will encourage greater turnover of vehicles and thus create more parking opportunities in support of local businesses in the centre of town.
- 3.2 Those wishing to park for longer periods of time will continue to be able to use Long Stay spaces that are currently available at other car parks within Totton.
- 3.3 This proposal would bring Totton in line with all other Towns and Parishes where charging for car parking has been working well for many years, with residents very satisfied with the value and flexibility of the Councils Parking Clock Scheme, where for £25 a year you can park for up to 3 hours, 365 days of the year in town centre car parks.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Prior to the proposed Amendment Order coming into force a statutory consultation process will be undertaken and the consent of the Highway Authority (HCC) sought.
- 4.2 This consultation process will take the form of an advertisement in the local press, the Council's Web Site and with targeted correspondence with nominated consultees.
- 4.3 Notices will also be placed in those car parks affected by the proposed changes.
- 4.4 It is proposed that the parking charges at the Civic Centre and Westfield Road car park would commence from 1 January 2021.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is estimated that making these two car parks pay and display will produce enough revenue to cover business rates, maintenance and enforcement costs.
- 5.2 It is expected that there would be a high proportion of locals using the parking clocks to pay to park with 80% parking clock usage, this would leave a ticket machine income of around £75,000 with additional parking clock income (based on 200 short stay clocks at £25.00 each) added this would leave a predicted total income of circa £80,000 per year.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is expected that the proposal will continue to support the town centre economy by providing enough short stay parking in the centre of the town whilst maintaining the provision of Long Stay spaces which will encourage commuter parking thus reducing emissions in the Totton area.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That a draft amendment to the District of New Forest (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2005, be advertised to the effect that the spaces in the car parks detailed at paragraphs 1.2 to 1.4 of this report, be designated for short stay (maximum waiting period 3 hours no return within 2 hours) and that charges be introduced as per paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 in Civic centre and Westfield Road car parks.

8. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.

CLLR E J HERON

Sign:

Date: 11 September 2020

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Date on which notice given of this decision – 11 September 2020

Last date for call-in – 18 September 2020