

DISTRICT OF NEW FOREST (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2020, AMENDMENT No. 3 –

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

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Council's car parks are subject to the District of New Forest (Off-Street Car Parking Places) Order 2005 ('the Order') which sets out the regulations under which car parks in the District can be used. From time to time it becomes necessary to make an Amendment Order so that alterations to the Order can be made to reflect changing circumstances. An Amendment Order is subject to a legal process which includes a statutory consultation process.
- 1.2. This process is set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 ('the Regulations').
- 1.3. The Council proposes to introduce changes to the short stay and long stay spaces at the car parks at Winsor Road, Civic Centre and Westfield Road, Totton with parking charges being introduced in Civic Centre and Westfield Road car parks. Therefore, an amendment is required to the Order.

2. PUBLICATION OF PROPOSALS

- 2.1. Following the Portfolio Holder's Decision dated 11 September 2020 (**Appendix 1**) which agreed to the proposed amendments, the draft Amendment Order (**Appendix 2**) was advertised in accordance with the Regulations and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ('the Act').
- 2.2. This involved consulting with statutory consultees, the erection of site notices, publication of the notice of proposals in a newspaper circulating in the area and having prescribed deposit documents available at the Council's offices. In addition, 21 local business premises were written to advising them of the proposed changes.
- 2.3. Consent to the making of the proposed Amendment Order was also sought from Hampshire County Council ('HCC') in accordance with section 39(3) of the Act.

3. ITEM FOR DECISION

- 3.1. To consider the representations received as a result of the statutory advertisement and consultation process.
- 3.2. In the light of those considerations, to determine whether or not the Amendment Order should be made.
- 3.3. If the decision is made to make the Amendment Order, in accordance with the Regulations, following the publication of proposals stage of the Order making process, further advertisements, including a 'notice of making' are required.

4. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED

- 4.1. A total of 5 e-mailed responses and 2 handwritten letters were received. In addition, a site meeting was held at Westfield Road car park with a local business owner at their request. This was attended by Cllr Edward Heron, Cllr Neville Penman and David Hurd, NFDC Enforcement Manager.

5. REPRESENTATION FROM PUBLIC - RESPONSES

- 5.1. Of the 7 public responses, 4 were specifically against introducing charges in Westfield Road and Civic Centre car parks and 3 were against changing the long stay spaces to short stay in Winsor Road car park.
- 5.2. Totton and Eling Town Council have been consulted and object to the plan to introduce charges in the 2 car parks at Westfield Road and Civic Centre. They have not commented on the proposed changes in Winsor Road car park.

6. COMMENT ON OBJECTIONS RECEIVED

- 6.1. Some of the local businesses stated that the introduction of charges would have a negative impact on their business and would lead to staff having to park on-street as they would not be able to afford to pay to park. NFDC operate a parking clock scheme and annual long stay parking is available at less than 50 pence/day and 3-hours short stay parking is available at less than 10 pence/day.
- 6.2. It is also suggested that a significant number of people in Totton already own an NFDC parking clock which is valid in all pay and display car parks so there would be no additional cost to them.
- 6.3. Other areas of the forest do not provide free car parking and it is inequitable and unfair that other areas should subsidise those car parks in Totton which are currently free. Changing Winsor Road long stay spaces to short stay will encourage greater turnover of vehicles and thus create more parking opportunities in support of local businesses in the town. There is long stay parking available close to Winsor Road car park at Elingfield (70 spaces) and Rumbridge Street (132 spaces) car parks. The closest, Elingfield, is only 50 metres away from Winsor Road car park.

7. OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The proposals will not be detrimental to highway safety and the proposals have the support of HCC officers. There are not expected to be any operational implications arising directly as a result of this decision.

8. STATUTORY CONSULTEES

- 8.1. No objection has been received from the statutory consultees and Hampshire County Council have given their consent.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. 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 Council's 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.

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

- 10.1. All ticket machines operating in the car parks will be solar powered. The other environmental implications are outlined in the Portfolio Holder decision dated 11 September 2020.
- 10.2. The Council is subject to the public sector equality duty, as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The duty covers defined protected characteristics comprising age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex; and sexual orientation. The Council must have due regard to the requirements of the public sector equality duty in the exercise of its functions.
- 10.3. It is not considered that the introduction of the proposed changes will have an adverse equality impact. The ticket machines are wheelchair accessible. There will be designated disabled parking bays in all of the car parks affected by the proposed changes, including in all short stay and long stay areas. In addition, in accordance with the Order, those displaying a blue badge can park in the Council's car parks (whether or not in a designated disabled bay) free of charge.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1. The representations have been reviewed and careful consideration has been given to the concerns of those objecting to the proposal.
- 11.2. However, it has been concluded that it is appropriate to make the changes as proposed in the draft Amendment Order.

11.3 The Amendment Order, as advertised, should therefore be made.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1. That the Amendment Order attached as **Appendix 2** be made to come into force no earlier than 1 January 2021 and further advertisements should take place as required by the Regulations.

13. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

13.1. I have agreed to the recommendation of this report.

Sign: Cllr Edward J Heron

Date: 4 December 2020

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Date on which notice given of this decision – 4 December 2020

Last date for call-in – 11 December 2020