

**DRAFT DISTRICT OF NEW FOREST (OFF- STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2015 - WITHDRAWAL OF LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE CAR PARKING CLOCK**

**1. ITEM FOR DECISION**

- 1.1 To consider the representations received as a result of the publication of a notice advertising the Council’s intention to amend the District of New Forest (Off-Street Car Parking Places) Order 2005 to withdraw the Lyndhurst Community Centre (5 hour) short stay clock. In the light of that consideration, to determine whether or not to withdraw the Lyndhurst Community Centre 5 hour clock.

**2 REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED AND COMMENT**

- 2.1 Details of the representations received and comments on them are set out in Appendix 1. The comments from the Lyndhurst Community Centre are dealt with separately within this report.

**3. REPRESENTATION FROM LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE**

- 3.1 The representations received from the Community Centre are set out below:-

“I would urge the Council not to discontinue the five-hour clock for the following reasons:

- 3.1.1 Although we have car parking space for up to 25 cars, we have up to 200 people at any one time attending meetings at the Centre and generally staying for longer than three hours.

- 3.1.2 If the five-hour clock is taken away we will be affected, as many people rely on having the five hours. This could have a knock-on effect on our bookings and potentially lead to a substantial reduction in our income. The Community Centre is operated and maintained by an independent charitable trust and has to be self-funding. Many local people rely on the Community Centre for social activities in the absence of an adequate public transport service and any threat to its viability has to be taken very seriously.

- 3.1.3 As you know, we have greatly improved the building in recent years and it is now an asset to the entire village, bringing people in from a wide area and no doubt increasing trade for local businesses. You will be well aware that traders are already struggling in the current economic climate.

- 3.1.4 The administration involved in selling and accounting for the clocks takes a considerable amount of staff time but we have been willing to contribute this as agreed with NFDC for the benefit of having the five-hour clock. If that benefit is withdrawn then the committee will have to consider whether it is appropriate for us to continue selling clocks.
- 3.1.5 I understand that the concession relating to the Hythe ferry is not to be withdrawn – why should we lose ours?”.

#### **4. COMMENT ON REPRESENTATION FROM LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE**

- 4.1 The Lyndhurst Community Centre short stay clock is available to those attending activities in the Lyndhurst Community Centre. The clock allows holders 2 hours' additional parking to the normal 3 hours allowed by a short stay clock. The current arrangements were originally put in place to assist the Centre when the current parking clock scheme was introduced approximately 10 years ago. The concession was primarily provided because, at that time, the Centre had no parking of its own and there was concern that the newly introduced 3 hour waiting restriction on district-wide short stay clocks would endanger the viability of the Centre.
- 4.2 Since that date the Centre has provided some parking facilities on site and the district-wide 3 hour short stay parking clock scheme has become well established to the extent that some 30,000 short stay clocks are sold each year.
- 4.3 The Council appreciate all that the Centre does for the Lyndhurst and surrounding communities and the pressures on such organisations, but this is not unique to Lyndhurst. A number of other patrons of Community Centres within the New Forest must make use of Council owned car parks where the Centres have no or limited car parking of their own, for example Avonway in Fordingbridge. The withdrawal of the additional 2 hour concession would bring the situation in line with that elsewhere within the New Forest, where patrons who hold a district-wide 3 hour short stay clock attending events or classes that last longer than three hours purchase a ticket to cover any additional time required.
- 4.4 Community Centres that do not benefit from the unique concession granted to Lyndhurst have maintained their viability and continue to thrive.
- 4.5 It is understood that the Community Centre may not wish to sell clocks if the Lyndhurst Community Centre Clock is withdrawn. The Council believe that there are sufficient alternatives to cope with this. Clocks can be purchased at the Visitor Information Centre in the car park, at Appletree Court, on-line or by telephone.
- 4.6 If individual organisations wish to assist volunteers they could purchase long stay clocks which could be loaned to volunteers when undertaking their voluntary work.
- 4.7 The concessionary scheme associated with Hythe Ferry is provided for transportation reasons (reduction of traffic on A326) and has no correlation with the Lyndhurst Community Centre parking concession

## **5. ALTERNATIVES TO USING THE LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CLOCK TO PAY FOR PARKING**

- 5.1 If the Lyndhurst Community Clock is withdrawn users of the Community Centre who wish to park can pay to park using the 3 hour short stay clock, the long stay clock or use the pay and display facility. If a short stay clock holder wishes to park for more than 3 hours in the long stay section of Lyndhurst car park they can purchase additional parking time from the pay and display ticket machine. These payment methods are in line with other car parks throughout the District which are used by community centre users.

## **6. OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Lyndhurst parking clock is an anomaly and therefore complicates the administration and enforcement of the parking regulations. Enforcement Officers have observed motorists attending their work place using the Lyndhurst Community Clock. This is not the intention of the Scheme.

## **7. STATUTORY CONSULTEES**

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

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are not expected to be any budgetary implications and no additional income as a result of the proposal has been budgeted for.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no implications arising directly as a result of this decision.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 In all, seven representations have been received and have been considered. The key concern of those making representations is that the withdrawal of the Lyndhurst Community Centre clock will be detrimental to the Community Centre, causing difficulties for users and volunteers. The concession enjoyed by the Lyndhurst Community Centre is unique. No other Centre in New Forest District benefits from such a concession. Since the introduction of the scheme the Centre has provided some on-site parking and the district-wide clock scheme has become widely accepted. There are already in place alternative ways of paying for parking should the Lyndhurst Community Centre Clock be withdrawn. The withdrawal of the concession would bring the situation in Lyndhurst in line with the rest of the District, and the district-wide arrangements do not appear to have detrimentally affected other community centres in the District.

- 10.2 The draft Order provides for the revised provisions to take effect on 1 December 2015. For operational reasons, as the period for which the clocks are valid runs from 1 January to 31 December in each year, it is proposed that the withdrawal of the Lyndhurst Community Centre parking clocks should take effect on 1 January 2016.

## **11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 That the draft District of New Forest (Off Street Parking Places) (Amendment) Order 2015, withdrawing the Lyndhurst Community Centre car parking clock, be confirmed, subject to the date on which it comes into effect being 1 January 2016.

## **12. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT**

- 12.1 I agree to the recommendation above.

Signed: E J HERON

Dated: 16 November 2015

Date notice of decision given: 16 November 2015

Last day for call-in: 23 November 2015

### **For Further Information please contact:**

John Bull  
Parking Manager  
Tel: 023 8028 5588  
Email: john.bull@nfdc.gov.uk

Colin Read  
Head of Environment Services  
Tel 023 8028 5588  
Email: colin.read@nfdc.gov.uk

Reference Number	Representation	NFDC Comment
1.	<p>Believes undertaken for purely financial reasons.</p> <p>Five hours enables many part-time workers to leave their vehicles for their full shift.</p> <p>Detrimental to people undertaking voluntary work and detrimental impact on Lyndhurst community centre and other village halls.</p> <p>Lack of publicity.</p>	<p>No increase in income has been budgeted for as a result of the proposal and financial gain plays no part in the council’s consideration of this matter.</p> <p>The Scheme was put in place to assist users of the community centre because at the time the centre had no parking of their own. It was not intended to give Lyndhurst preferential parking compared with the rest of the District. Community Centre Clocks should only be used and purchased by those taking part in Community Centre activities.</p> <p>Volunteers and those using the community centre can purchase the standard 3 hour clock and top up with a ticket from the pay and display machine. This is the same arrangement as the rest of the District where car parks are successfully used by many who are undertaking voluntary work or visiting Community Centres. The proposed amendment harmonises the regulations throughout the District.</p> <p>The statutory notices were displayed and published as required by regulation and community Centre and Parish Council Consulted</p>
2.	<p>Volunteer at library undertakes 5 hour shifts withdrawal of the 5 hour clock will prevent him from doing this.</p>	<p>The 3 hour clock is standard throughout the District and successfully used by volunteers. In order to assist volunteers the Library could make their own arrangements by acquiring some long stay clocks (these provide parking at a cost of less than 30p a day) to issue to volunteers as and when required.</p>
3.	<p>Volunteer at the New Forest Centre the 5 hour clock enables a shift to be completed without incurring additional charges. The withdrawal of the 5 hour clock may mean a need to reduce volunteering hours.</p>	<p>The withdrawal of the Clock brings the regulations concerning Lyndhurst car park in line with the rest of the District. In order to assist volunteers the Centre could make their own arrangements by acquiring some long stay clocks (these provide parking at a cost of less than 30p a day) to issue to volunteers as and when required. In the case of the Community Centre they could give priority to volunteers in their own car park.</p>
4.	<p>Attends Community Centre and volunteers at New Forest Centre the 5 hour clock is an incentive to use local facilities. Short sighted as Lyndhurst crying out for people to use local facilities.</p>	<p>The arrangements that will be in place will be the same as the rest of the District where car parks successfully provide for those volunteering and attending community centres. Organisations wishing to use volunteers could make arrangements to assist them with parking either by use of facilities or use of a clock.</p>

5.	Retired residents concerned that they will have to pay to park every time they come to Lyndhurst to shop/visit Doctors.	The short stay 3 hour parking clock is available at the same cost as the former Lyndhurst Community Clock and provides for parking at a cost of less than £0.40p a week. Therefore those wishing to visit Lyndhurst car park can continue to do so at the same cost unless they wish to stay for more than 3 hours when it will be necessary to purchase additional parking at a cost of £0.80p an hour.
6	A resident that uses the Community Centre for many activities believes that withdrawing the extra 2 hours and reverting to the 3 hour clock will reduce their ability to use the Community centre and other facilities	Long stay parking is still available and the 3 hour clock waiting time can be increased by purchasing a Pay and Display Ticket or long stay clock
7	The extra 2 hours mean a lot to all local residents .Good to be able to drive to Lyndhurst knowing can park for 5 hours whilst shopping or catching bus useful when visiting surgery or walking. Helpful when visiting Community Centre or see a film. Poor publicity for change.	The clock was intended to assist the Community Centre those using the Community Centre, if the clock is withdrawn those using Lyndhurst car Park can use the car park on the same terms/charges as all other car parks in the District including 3 hour short stay clocks and long stay clocks. Those who wish to purchase a short stay 3 hour clock can extend their stay by purchasing a p&d ticket. The statutory notices were published as required by regulation.
8	Volunteer at Library in New Forest Centre 2/3 times a week each session last 4 hours. The 5 hour clock saves between £100-£200 a year. Withdraw of clock mean loss of 100 hours voluntary work and less money sent in the Village, other volunteers will be forced to rethink the time they give to their voluntary work. Withdraw of clock will have negative effect on visitors and trade. Visitors comment on the low cost of parking and would pay more if additional income needed.	The withdrawal of the Clock brings the regulations concerning Lyndhurst car park in line with the rest of the District. In order to assist volunteers the Centre could make their own arrangements by acquiring some long stay clocks (these provide parking at a cost of less than 30p a day) to issue to volunteers as and when required. In the case of the Community Centre they could give priority to volunteers in their own car park
9 Bramshaw WI	Their members will be disadvantaged by the proposal. Concerned about lack of publicity particularly no web based information. They see following disadvantages: Use of other nearby amenities will be negatively affected. Increase the volume of traffic in Lyndhurst and further restrict availability of parking spaces, The clock is aimed at “encouraging the use of Lyndhurst Community Centre what will happen if clock withdrawn?	The withdrawal of the Clock brings the regulations concerning Lyndhurst car park in line with the rest of the District where charges are considered to be reasonable and proportionate. It is not anticipated that the withdrawal of the clock will have any adverse effect on traffic or availability of spaces. Lyndhurst is the only Community Centre to receive concessionary parking; other centres appear to flourish where the standard clock charges apply. The notices informing of the intended change were displayed in accordance with statutory requirements. The statutory notices were displayed and published as required by regulation and the community Centre and Parish Council Consulted.
.10	Lyndhurst Community Centre see main report	