

This Report will be made public on 17 May 2018

Folkestone

Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council



Report Number

C/18/06

To: Cabinet Member for Transport and Commercial

Date: 17 May 2018
Status: Non-Key Decision
Head of Service: Andy Blaszkowicz, Head of Commercial and Technical Services

Cabinet Member: Councillor Ann Berry, Cabinet Member for Transport and Commercial

SUBJECT: THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2018 (AMENDMENT 3). CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

SUMMARY: This report considers the objections received in respect of the proposed amendment to the Off Street Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce charges in the following car parks from the 1st June 2018:

- **Stripes Club, Cheriton Road, Folkestone**
- **The Lade, Coast Drive Lydd**
- **Wilberforce Road, Sandgate**

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Cabinet Member for Transport and Commercial is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because:

- a) Charges in Stripes Club car park will displace parking into nearby roads that are currently unrestricted. This will compound problems for local residents.
- b) There are increasing costs associated with operating and maintaining off-street facilities. The charges in Wilberforce Road and The Lade car parks will contribute towards these costs
- c) Those who use the facilities should pay to do so rather than general tax payers

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) **To receive and note Report C/18/06.**
- b) **That the objections to the proposed TRO for Stripes Club car park be upheld and that officers review parking in and around this car park in a year.**
- c) **That officers proceed with making the TRO as advertised for Wilberforce Road and The Lade car parks.**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Cabinet agreed on the 28th February 2018 (report Number C/17/80) on proposals to introduce charges in three of the nine free car parks as shown below:
 - Stripes Club car park, Cheriton,
 - The Lade car park, Coast Drive, Lydd
 - Wilberforce Road car park, Sandgate.
- 1.2 The proposals necessitated an amendment to the council's off-street traffic regulation order.

2. FORMAL CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The Proposal to introduce charges in the three car parks was advertised in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. The 'Notice of Intention' (appendix 1) was sent to all stakeholders and advertised in the Kent Messenger papers on week ending 9th March. Copies of this notice were erected on all lamp columns and posts within the car parks.
- 2.2 The closing date for responses was the 30th March 2018.

3. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK & COMMENTS

Stripes Club car park, Cheriton

- 3.1 No comments were received from statutory consultees. The comments received from the wider public are summarised below.
- 3.2 Forty six objections were received mainly from teachers and pupils of The Harvey Grammar School. The pupils state that they rely on the car park to safely park their cars. They state that they spend the majority of their income on running their vehicles and cannot afford to pay for parking. The teachers state that the charges are unreasonable and they have had little or no pay increase in the past 10 years. Concerns were also raised about displacing parking on to the roads, which will make it unsafe for pedestrians and other road users.

The head teacher of The Harvey Grammar School also sent an email voicing concerns about the charges and the possibility of motorists parking in bus stops and the proposed cycle lane. He has requested that the council considers free permits for the students if the charges are implemented.

- 3.3 The Three Hills Sports Club, Folkestone Cricket Club and Folkestone Bowls Association have also objected to the proposals. They state that the charges will adversely affect their sites as motorists will seek alternative free parking and congest local roads. This in turn will cause problems for children walking to their facilities. The Shepway Sports Trust also voiced concerns about parking being displaced on to the Three Hills Sports Park, which could create a real problem for the facility.

The Lade car park

3.4 No comments or objections received.

Wilberforce Road car park

3.5 One objection received. The objector is a pupil of The Harvey Grammar School and states that he regularly uses both Wilberforce Road and Stripes Club car parks to park his car when he is at school. He states that the charges would not encourage people to use the car parks.

Officers comments

3.6 Stripes Club Car Park has been historically free. It is usually full to capacity on school days and as some of the objectors commented, users sometimes have to park on the road. The vast majority of users are Harvey Grammar School students.

3.7 The proposed tariffs for Wilberforce Road car park are proportionate and lower than the standard rate set for car parks right across the district. The proposal includes parking for Zone S permit holders so residents living in Sandgate will still be able to use this facility without any additional charges. As the proposal is to convert to a long stay car park, season ticket holders will also be able to use this facility. Staff working in local businesses will be able to buy season tickets, which are heavily discounted.

4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The proposed introduction of new charges in the free car parks aligns with one of the council's strategic objectives- achieving stability. A recent review of car parks concluded that three of the nine free car parks that have been historically free are suitable for charging and will help with the budget challenge the council faces. There are costs associated with any off-street parking the council provides and charges help cover some of the increasing maintenance and operating costs.

4.2 However, valid concerns have been raised about possible displacement parking and the impact on nearby roads if charges are introduced in Stripes Club car park. There are already parking difficulties in many of the roads off Cheriton Road, and it is feared that this proposal will compound the problems. In view of this, it is therefore recommended that the objections to the Stripes Club car park proposals be upheld and no changes are implemented. It is further recommended that officers carry out a review of the parking in the area in a year and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

4.3 It is also recommended that the Traffic Regulation Order is made as advertised for The Lade and Wilberforce Road car parks and that the changes be implemented as soon as practicable.

5. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

5.1 Legal Officer's Comments (DK)

There are no legal implications arising directly out of this report. Members must be aware that charges for car parking and penalties imposed in the event of failure to pay must be fair and not excessive. The Council is under a duty to ensure that an increase in the parking charges levied are not done merely to raise additional revenue or maximise income for the Council (generally).

5.2 Finance Officer's Comments (RH)

All the financial implications are covered in the Cabinet report C/17/80– including Capital funding requirement of £11,500 for 2018/19.

5.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications (SS)

There are no diversity or equality implications directly affected by this report.

6. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Officer: Frederick Miller, Transportation Manager
Telephone: 01303 853207
E-mail: Frederick.miller@shepway.gov.uk

The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Proposal Notice