

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING)** will be held in **THE CORPORATE TRAINING SUITE, EASTFIELD HOUSE, 6 LATHAM ROAD, HUNTINGDON, PE29 6YE** on **TUESDAY, 2 MARCH 2010** at **6:30 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact
(01480)**

APOLOGIES

1. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

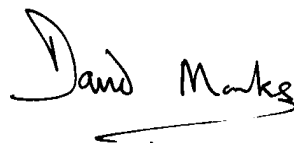
To receive from Members declarations as to personal and/or prejudicial interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any Agenda item. Please see notes 1 and 2 overleaf.

2. CAR PARKING REVIEW UPDATE (Pages 1 - 8)

To consider the decision made by Cabinet on 11th February 2010 on the Car Parking Review Update, which has been called-in by the Panel, as described in a report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services.

**Mrs J Walker
387049**

Dated this 22 day of February 2010



Chief Executive

Notes

1. *A personal interest exists where a decision on a matter would affect to a greater extent than other people in the District –*
 - (a) *the well-being, financial position, employment or business of the Councillor, their family or any person with whom they had a close association;*
 - (b) *a body employing those persons, any firm in which they are a partner and any company of which they are directors;*
 - (c) *any corporate body in which those persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or*

(d) *the Councillor's registerable financial and other interests.*

2. *A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest where a member of the public (who has knowledge of the circumstances) would reasonably regard the Member's personal interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.*

Please contact Mrs J Walker, Trainee Democratic Services Officer, Telephone: 01480 387049, email: jessica.walker@huntsdc.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website –
www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk (*under Councils and Democracy*).

**If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports
or would like a large text version or an audio version
please contact the Democratic Services Manager and
we will try to accommodate your needs.**

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

**CAR PARKING REVIEW 2009
(Report by the Democratic and Central Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the Cabinet's decision on the Car Parking Review 2009, which has been called-in for scrutiny by the requisite three Members of the Panel.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being), on 9th February 2010, considered a report by the Head of Planning Services seeking authorisation to introduce a range of measures through the making of a revised Off-Street Parking Places Order for implementation from 1st June 2010. A copy of the report has been attached as an Appendix. Having considered the report, Members raised concerns over the possible implications of introducing charging at Riverside Park, St Neots. Given that footfall in St Neots has fallen and that the town is suffering from traffic congestion, it was felt that the implementation of parking charges at Riverside Park would further exacerbate these issues and would increase air pollution in the town centre. The Panel, therefore, invited the Cabinet to consider allowing 3 hours free parking in the whole of Riverside Car Park, which would benefit shoppers who wish to park there and those who want to use the Park for leisure and recreational purposes. The Panel suggest that an appropriate charge should be set for those who park longer than 3 hours with payment on exit which may reduce enforcement costs.

- 2.2 The Cabinet, at their meeting held on 11th February 2010, also considered the report by the Head of Planning Services and, as a result, decided that:

- (a) the provision of 38 spaces offering 2 hours free parking in a demarcated area at Riverside Car Park, St. Neots should be included as part of an Off-Street Parking Places Order 2010 for planned implementation on 1st June 2010;
- (b) that the Car Parking Working Group should be requested to consider those issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny (Environmental Well-Being) Panel and the promotion of environmental issues at the end of the statutory consultation period; and
- (c) that the Director of Environment and Community Services should be authorised, after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Planning Strategy and Transport, to make and confirm Off-Street Parking Places Orders in future years involving any changes of minor significance and reviews of charges in line with inflation.

- 2.3 Following publication of the Cabinet's decision, Councillor P M D Godfrey, K M Baker and D Harty called-in the decision. The reasons

given for the call-in are that the decision takes no account of the issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The decision will:

- lead to more cars and vehicles parking in areas adjacent to the car park and increased use of the town centre car parks;
- create additional congestion in the High Street and town centre;
- increase pollution in the High Street, in an area identified by Environmental Health as above accepted levels;
- continue the reduction in retail footfall currently being experienced in St Neots, and
- reduce visitors and tourism opportunities.

The decision is 'called-in' to enable further consideration before the Order is made and for the Panel to raise the issues directly with the Cabinet.

- 2.4 The Panel is therefore invited to consider the decision of the Cabinet. The appropriate Executive Councillor, Councillor D B Dew, has been invited to attend.

3. CALL-IN

- 3.1 Members are reminded of the guidance for call-in as set out in paragraph 14 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution.

- 3.2 The Panel has various options which are as follows:-

- ◆ if, having considered the matter, the Panel is still concerned about it, then it may be referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of the Panel's concerns or the Panel can refer the matter to full Council. If referred back to the Cabinet, the latter would then be required to reconsider their decision within a further 10 working days, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision;
- ◆ if the Panel decides not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet, the decision shall take effect from the date of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting;
- ◆ if the matter is referred to full Council and the Council does not object to the decision which has been made, then no further action is necessary and the decision will become effective on the date of the Council meeting; or
- ◆ if the matter is referred to full Council and they decide to object, they have no ability to make decisions in respect of an executive decision unless it is contrary to the policy framework or contrary to or not wholly consistent with the budget. Unless this is the case, the Council can refer any decision to which it objects back to the Cabinet, together with the Council's views on the decision. The Cabinet can then decide whether to amend the decision or not before reaching a final decision and implementing it.

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Appendix A

COMT	26 TH JANUARY 2010
O&S PANEL (ENV. WELL-BEING)	9 TH FEBRUARY 2010
CABINET	11 TH FEBRUARY 2010

CAR PARKING REVIEW 2009 (Report by Head of Planning Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Cabinet will recall that they considered the outcomes of the latest review at their meeting on 19th November 2009.
- 1.2 At that time, a number of resolutions were made to allow the preparation of a revised Off-Street Parking Places Order 2010 for implementation from 1st June 2010.
- 1.3 At that meeting, Cabinet requested that the Member Car Parking Working Party be reconvened to consider the operational issue of how an element of 2-hour free parking could be provided for the recreational users of Riverside Park.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Member Working Party met on 16th December 2009 when it was outlined how Riverside Park, St. Neots, is an important recreational area, particularly because of the lack of play areas in Eaton Ford, and this local requirement justifies the retention of some free parking for a two-hour period.
- 2.2 The Member Working Party were informed that Executive Councillors were concerned at the lack of detail about how the free parking would be implemented and the management of such arrangements.
- 2.3 Officers advised that it was not considered feasible to make all spaces at Riverside free for an initial 2 hour period as this would make enforcement extremely difficult and would lead to a loss of revenue, both from reduced income and increased enforcement costs. As part of the already approved MTP bid, it was originally proposed that enforcement would be provided via the existing Street Ranger service, but this would need to be reviewed if all spaces were to be initially free for 2 hours.
- 2.4 To address this issue, it was proposed therefore to segment the car park into charged areas and areas where free parking for up to 2 hours could be permitted (and no return within an hour). As the free parking would be to serve the recreational activities within the park, it

is proposed to locate this in the southern part of the car park, directly along the edge of the recreational area. Those 38 dedicated spaces as shown in Annex A would then be free for 2 hours. This would provide a clearly demarcated area (about 15% of the total parking) which could be robustly monitored and enforced by the existing Street Ranger service.

- 2.5 As part of the approved MTP for 2010/11 relating to 'Additional Car Park Charges' (Bid No. 924), this agreed a net income of £100K relating to the potential introduction of charging at Riverside and Cambridge Street car parks in St. Neots and Hinchingsbrooke Country Park in Huntingdon. As a result of this change now recommended at Riverside, St. Neots to permit an element of free parking for 2 hours, it is estimated that this would result in a reduction in net income to £90K in 2010/11.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The Working Party debated the proposals made and also received input from local Ward Members who attended the meeting. Following this discussion, a vote was taken on the proposals and by a majority, it was recommended that Cabinet approve the provision of 38 free parking spaces at Riverside Park, St. Neots as outlined above and as shown in Annex A.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended;

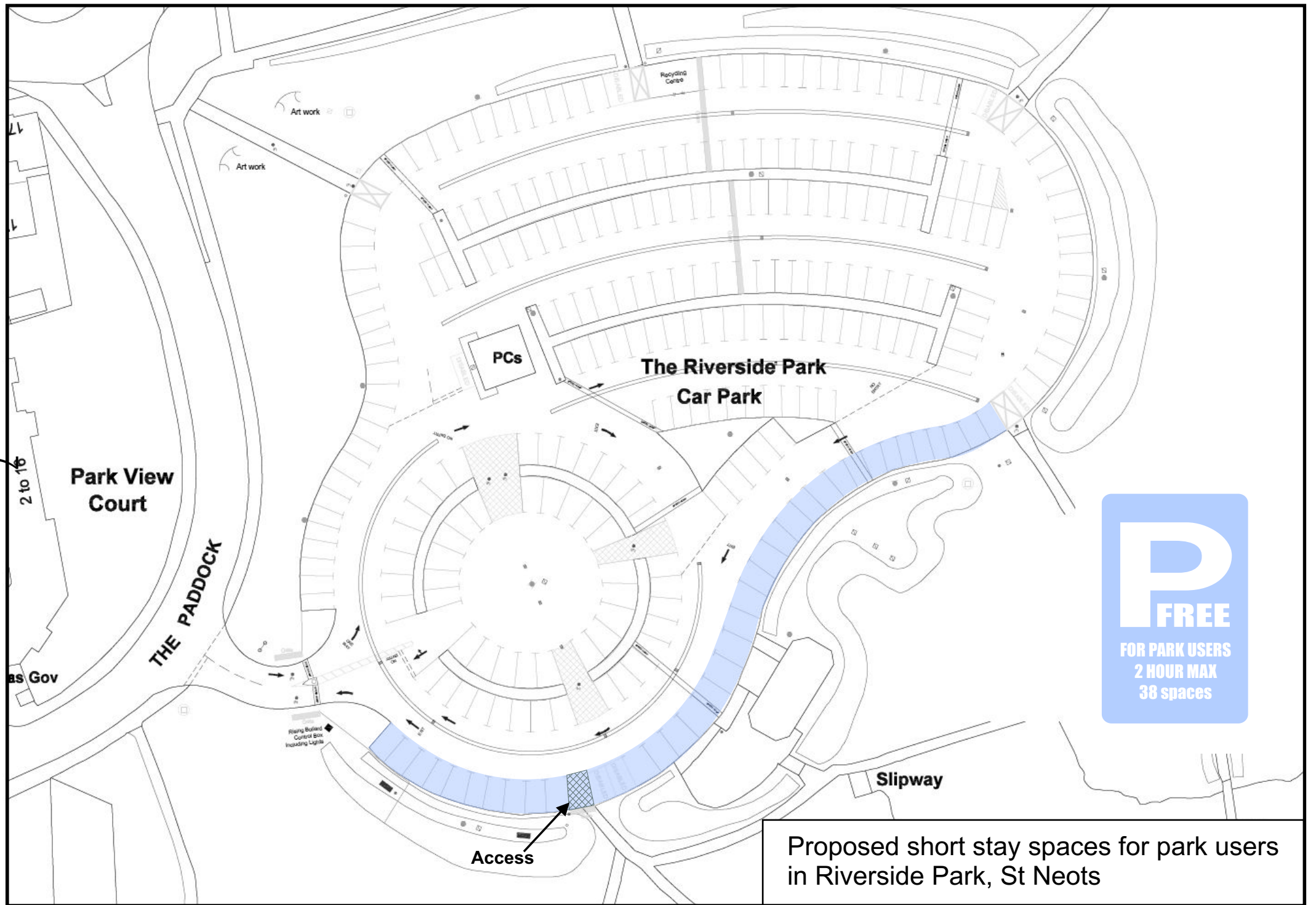
That Cabinet approve the proposed free parking element at Riverside car park, St. Neots and that this be included within a further report to Cabinet, together with other revised measures already approved, as part of a revised Off-Street Parking Places Order 2010 for planned implementation from 1st June 2010.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Car Parking Strategy Cabinet Report – 19th November 2009
Members Car Parking Working Party Minutes – 16th December 2009

Contact Officer: **Stuart Bell – Transport Team Leader**

 **01480 388387**



P
FREE
FOR PARK USERS
2 HOUR MAX
38 spaces

Proposed short stay spaces for park users in Riverside Park, St Neots

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