

COMT  
O&S PANEL (ENV. WELL-BEING)  
CABINET

26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010  
9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010  
11<sup>TH</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010.**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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

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