

**CAR PARK REVIEW 2009 - FEEDBACK
(Report by the Cabinet)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 16th March 2010, the Cabinet considered the outcome of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's (Environmental Well-Being) "call-in" of the Cabinet's decision relating to car parking charges.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.2 At its meeting on 11th February 2010 the Cabinet agreed to include the provision of 38 spaces offering 2 hours free parking in a demarcated area at Riverside Car Park, St Neots as part of an Off-Street Parking Places Order 2010.

Subsequently, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel "called-in" the decision, which resulted in the Panel recommending to Cabinet that 3 hours free parking for the whole of the Riverside Car Park be introduced to assist those who want to use the park for leisure and recreational purpose.

3. DELIBERATIONS

- 3.1 The Cabinet debated a variety of issues relating to the difficulty of enforcing the Panel's proposal, the financial implications of extending the free area, environmental considerations and the question of footfall levels in the town centre. In terms of income, Members considered the possibility of recouping any loss in income by introducing a higher charge for parking after 3 hours.
- 3.2 The Cabinet decided that their original decision for 38 spaces offering free parking for a period of two hours offered the best approach to serve the interests of shoppers and leisure users of the Riverside car park while achieving the aims of the car parking strategy.
- 3.3 The Cabinet was conscious of the fact that the proposals will be the subject of public consultation as part of the statutory order making process which will give the public an opportunity to express their views on the proposal.

- 3.4 The Cabinet therefore approved the preparation and publication of the Off-Street Parking Places Order 2010 for public consultation, to include the provision of 38 spaces offering 2 hours free parking in a demarcated area at the Riverside Car Park, St Neots.
- 3.5 A notice advertising the Order will appear in the Hunts Post on 31st March 2010 and interested parties have until 30th April 2010 to make representations to the Council.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel are invited to note the contents of this report.

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