

**REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL  
(ENVIRONMENTAL WELL-BEING)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 At its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010, the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) considered the following reports:-

- Ramsey Market Town Transport Strategy;
- Car Parking Orders.

**2. DELIBERATIONS**

2.1 The Panel welcomed the content of the Ramsey Market Town Transport Strategy and endorsed the recommendation contained in the report.

2.2 With regard to the Car Parking Orders, Members discussed the possible implications of introducing charging at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. While recognising that the car park is being used by motorists working and visiting the nearby hospital and commuting via the railway station, the Panel would draw the Cabinet's attention to the need to ensure that membership of Friends of the Country Park also is not used simply to enable motorists to continue to park at the country park without charge.

With regard to the situation at Riverside Park, St Neots, the Panel noted the responses received which opposed the introduction of charges for parking. In view of the level of publicity that this matter has generated in the local media, the Panel acknowledged that there has been ample opportunity for members of the public to comment. The Panel saw no reason therefore why a local inquiry should be required to explore the objections raised in greater detail which it was felt would add further delay and cost to the process. While a number of Members expressed some sympathy with the views expressed by the public, the Panel also recognised the need for the Council to generate additional income to meet the anticipated shortfall in the Council's budget.

The Panel therefore asks that the Cabinet takes representations received into account in determining whether to confirm the parking places order, while recommending that this matter is dealt with without a local inquiry.

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