

Supplementary Committee Agenda



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 4th October, 2007

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Committee Secretary: Simon Hill, Senior Democratic Services Officer
email: shill@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 564249

7. WORK PROGRAMME MONITORING - SIX MONTHLY REVIEW. (Pages 3 - 4)

To consider the attached monitoring information on Free Saturday Car Parking.

Please bring this report to the meeting.

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Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 4 October 2007

Subject: Monitoring of free Saturday car parking

Officer contact for further information: J Gilbert

Committee Secretary: Z Folley



Recommendation:

- (1) That Cabinet be recommended to make no changes to the current free Saturday parking regime; and**
- (2) That further six monthly monitoring be undertaken and reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Report:

1. In November 2006 cabinet considered the provision of free car parking in the Council's off-street car parks. Cabinet resolved:

"(1) That car parking charges in the Council's short stay car parks be retained and free car parking on Saturdays be provided in the following Council owned long-stay and combined car parks:

- (a) Traps Hill, Loughton;*
- (b) Smarts Lane, Loughton;*
- (c) Queens Road (lower), Buckhurst Hill;*
- (d) Cornmill, Waltham Abbey;*
- (e) Darby Drive, Waltham Abbey;*
- (f) Quaker Lane, Waltham Abbey;*
- (g) Bakers Lane, Epping; and*
- (h) The Pleasance, Ongar;*

(2) That all necessary changes to the existing traffic regulation orders be made;

(3) That the consequences of approximately £75,150 lost CSB revenue per annum be noted;

(4) That, to be funded from LABGI monies, a one-off DDF cost in the sum of £10,000 for signage and traffic regulation orders be noted; and

(5) That the free car parking arrangements on Saturdays be kept under operational review and further reports submitted to the Cabinet for consideration."

2. Checks have been undertaken by Vinci Park staff, and car park assessed on the basis of:

- (i) percentage full; and
- (ii) the percentage of those cars thought to be present all day (i.e. were present at both morning and afternoon checks).

3. The situation was recorded as follows:

Car park	% full	% potentially all day
Cornmill, Waltham Abbey	31%	4%
Darby Drive, Waltham Abbey	95%	26%
Bakers Lane, Epping	31%	4%
Traps Hill, Loughton	60%	6%
Smarts lane, Loughton	86%	50%
The Pleasance, Chipping Ongar	37%	15%
Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill (lower)	40%	27%

It can be seen that the greatest problem appears to relate to Smarts lane in Loughton, where half the cars were present for an extended period during the day. This may be due to local employees taking benefit of the free parking arrangements. In all other respects there appears to be no clear abuse of the arrangements.

4. At this time there seems no reason to change the free parking arrangements but Members may wish to see further ad hoc monitoring with reports back to Scrutiny as appropriate.

Resource implications

5. The resource implications were considered by Cabinet when making its decision in November 2006. Recent budget analysis suggests that car parking income has reduced in 2006/07 some of which could be attributable to the free Saturday regime. Further information, if available, will be provided at the meeting.