

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C/066/2006-07.
Date of meeting: 9 October 2006.



Portfolio: Civil Engineering & Maintenance.

Subject: Change of Designation - Darby Drive Car Park, Waltham Abbey.

Officer contact for further information: John Gilbert (01992 – 56 4062).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 – 56 4470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To change the designation of the Darby Drive Car Park at Waltham Abbey from short stay to combined long/short stay; and**
- (2) To amend the traffic regulation order accordingly.**

Report:

1. Since the opening of the Tesco supermarket at Waltham Abbey the usage of the Council's car parks has changed. Short stays at Quaker Lane and Darby Drive has dropped. Quaker Lane still attracts the greater short stay usage with Darby Drive only operating at around 25% capacity.
2. Some time ago Cabinet agreed to change the designation of the Cornmill car park from long stay to combined long/short stay and this has greatly increased its usage, with it being at around 75% capacity for much of the week due to the availability now of short stay capacity to the west of the town. It is now suggested that the contrary amendment be made at Darby Drive, with a change from short stay to combined. This will have the following advantages:
 - (a) ease the long stay pressure on Cornmill, this being currently the only long stay car park in the town;
 - (b) provide long stay parking to the east of the town directly behind the shops and businesses; and
 - (c) may attract the users of Tesco and the Lea Valley Park car parks back to the centre of the town.

Statement in Support of Recommended Action:

3. This change should provide a better balance of parking in the town and provide long stay parking for the use of employers and employees at the cheaper long stay/season rates. It may also encourage some long stay users, currently occupying the privately operated free car parks associated with Tesco and the Lee Valley Park to park in the town centre due to its greater convenience.

Other Options for Action:

4. The only alternative is to retain the tariff structure as it is, with the use of the car park falling well below capacity with consequent financial effects to the Council and the economy of the town centre.

Consultation Undertaken:

5. Waltham Abbey Town Centre Partnership has been consulted but at the time of finalising this report no response had been received. If views are received they will be reported at the meeting.

Resource implications:

Budget provision: Uncertain at this stage but if the usage of Darby Drive car park increases additional income will be generated for the general fund. There will be costs of approx. £4,500 for amending the traffic order and new signage in the car park.

Personnel: Nil.

Land: Nil.

Community Plan/BVPP reference: Supporting local economies.

Relevant statutory powers: Road Traffic Acts and associated regulations.

Background papers: N/A.

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: N/A.

Key Decision reference (if required): N/A.