

DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT TASK GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.00 pm on 4 JANUARY 2005

Present: - Councillors R M Lemon, J P Murphy and A M Wattebot.

Officers in attendance: - M Cox, T Halford, J G Pine, S Mclagan and A Stewart.

DPE29 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J F Cheetham, M A Hibbs and C M Dean.

DPE30 CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman it was

RESOLVED that Councillor J P Murphy be appointed Chairman for this meeting.

DPE31 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2004 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

DPE32 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute DPE24 – Liaison with Police

The group referred to problems of cars parking on the zigzag lines in Dunmow High Street. The last meeting had clarified that this was a police responsibility. It was hoped to improve the working relations with the police in the Dunmow area and Councillor Murphy agreed to make initial contact with the Inspector.

Councillor Wattbot was given clarification about incidences of parking in the loading bays in Thaxted High Street.

ii) Minute DPE26 – Progress towards implementation

It was reported that the scheme was still one parking attendant short but it was hoped that this would be resolved shortly.

DPE33 FLY PARKING IN TAKELEY AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Members were given details of a report on this issue that was to be considered at the next meeting of the Transport and Highways Committee.

As part of the Section 106 Agreement associated with the expansion of the airport to 25mppa, BAA Stansted had been obliged to carry out a study of the level of fly parking by air passengers that were taking place on the public highway within the vicinity of the airport. In October 2003, a freephone hotline had been set up for the reporting of such incidences. During that year 77 incidences had been reported for Takeley, mainly in Garnetts and in the northwestern part of the village closest to the airport. With the opening of the new A120 it was possible that incidences of fly parking might start to occur further a field.

A meeting had taken place between BAA, the District Council and the County Council, which agreed that the hotline should continue in order to gain an accurate picture of the problem. Members agreed that the number should be publicised more widely as proposed in the report.

The Highways Working Group of the Stansted Area Transport Forum would be looking at the reported cases to assess the possible measures to alleviate the problem. These could include residents parking zones or no waiting restrictions, although there were practical and financial implications associated with these.

Members commented that the problems were partly a consequence of the relatively high cost of parking at the airport. It was also agreed that a clear definition of fly parking was required.

DPE34

OPTIONS FOR CAR PARK PAYMENT METHODS

Following a motion at Full Council, officers had been asked to provide details of alternative parking methods in all of the Council's car parks. The options of pay on exit machines and staffing a kiosk machine had been investigated.

The pay on exit machines would require both entrance and exit barriers and an appropriate machine. The capital cost would be in the region of £432,900. The capital costs for a system where motorists paid at an exit point would be in the region of £85,000 plus the cost of a hut and the associated staffing costs.

Both options were considered to be prohibitively expensive in terms of capital outlay and on going revenue costs. The group agreed but asked that other possible systems be looked at including the use of pre payment vouchers that were reported to be used in other districts

RECOMMENDED that no changes be made to implement the payment methods outlined in the report, but officers consider further methods, including pre payment vouchers and report to the next meeting of the Task Group.

DPE35 CAR PARK CHARGES

Members were given details of the proposed increase in car parking charges as from April 2005. An increase of 10p was proposed across the board at all car parks. For season tickets it was suggested that there be a £50 increase for White Street and Stansted car parks and £25 for Swan Meadow. The charges were still the lowest of all the Councils in Essex and Herts. Members considered the proposal to be the most appropriate option as a 5p increase would be inconvenient.

RECOMMENDED that the Transport and Highways Committee support the proposed increase in car parking charges.

DPE36 REVIEW OF DECRIMINALISATION

The first review of the new system was due to begin in March. The review would need to take some months and be quite wide-ranging before changes could be recommended to the TRO. The next meeting would discuss the framework for the review.

Recent changes to legislation would have implications for the review. The Traffic Management Act 2004 was likely to give responsibility to the district for footway parking, dropped kerbs and moved parking offences.

Clarification was still required on which authority should have the responsibility for coning. This could have huge implications for the district.

RECOMMENDED that the Transport and Highways Committee be asked to write to the Chief Constable and the Chairman of the Police Authority to clarify the issue of responsibility for coning.

DPE37 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 15 March 2005 at the Council Offices Great Dunmow at 4.00pm

The meeting ended at 5:00pm.