

DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT TASK GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES SAFFRON WALDEN at 4.00 pm on 6 MARCH 2006

Present: - Councillor M A Hibbs - Chairman.
Councillors D W Gregory and A M Wattebot.

Officers in attendance: - M Cox, L Scott and A Stewart.

DPE56 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J F Cheetham and R M Lemon.

DPE57 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2005 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

DPE58 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute DPE53 (i) - Fly parking in Takeley and surrounding areas

It was reported that the results of the survey of residents had shown 50% support for some kind of "no waiting" restriction, but less than 10% for a residents parking scheme. On this basis officers would work with the County and the parish to introduce a temporary no waiting order for a trial period of 18 months.

(ii) Minute DPE48 – Review of Decriminalisation

At its last meeting, the Transport and Highways Committee had decided not to amend the Group's terms of reference. The meeting had reaffirmed that this was a time limited task group, having been established for a specific purpose.

DPE59 PARKING – STRATEGIC POLICY REVIEW

Members were advised of the progress that had been made in respect of the review of parking arrangements in Uttlesford. Officers had undertaken further work on the 13 priority areas to be investigated. The report set out a number of recommendations which would be considered at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 14 March. Members made comments on the following issues

1.0 Traffic Regulation orders

It was likely that the making of TRO's would continue to be the responsibility of the County Council. The Districts would have an opportunity, through the Local Area Agreement, to put forward preferred schemes for their areas and also to comment on ECC driven schemes at the Area Panel meetings. The

orders would be tailored to the Districts but would continue to be made by the ECC. If this was the case, the resource and staffing implication would be less significant than originally feared.

2.0 Adequate off street provision

Members asked that a recommendation be added which would highlight the need for planning officers to take car parking provision into account when they were considering applications for new developments.

2.1 Introduction of voucher system/alternative payment method

The group discussed the various options for payment at the Council's car parks. The report had mentioned a "Smart Card" but there was concern at the amount of administration involved in running such a scheme. Members thought that the public would prefer a "pay as you leave" arrangement but this would be prohibitively expensive. Members asked about different options for updating the coin machines and were informed that machines that gave change were likely to be too complex at present. There was also the possibility of using credit/debit cards but security would be an issue. It was likely that the current system would be the preferred option and officers would be looking at replacing the current machines with more sophisticated machines.

The recommendation was amended to ask officers to review the cost implications of replacing the machines with similar ones and also to look at the feasibility of machines that gave change.

2.3 Station Car parks

The Committee was aware there had been discussions about a bus service from Saffron Walden to Audley End Station and this was added to the report.

4.1 Consultation with various parties

It was suggested that the groups/organisations should be given a "hotline" contact number and this was added to the recommendation.

7.2 Coning

The committee considered that the 3 options in the schedule were all feasible in principle but there were still details to be sorted out in terms of what constituted a charitable event and when a charge should be made. There would need to be a flexible approach for each event, the details could be decided by the appropriate area panel.

8.3 Airport Expansion

The group amended the recommendation so as to be in line with Council policy, that in terms of car park provision at the airport, alternative means of transport should be investigated in consultation with the Airport.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 officers make further investigations and amendments to the report as suggested by Members, and
- 2 the Environment Committee be asked to approve the report at its next meeting.

The meeting ended at 4:55 pm.