

## **NOTES OF AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT TASK GROUP HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2007**

Present:- Councillor R F Freeman – Chairman.

Officers in attendance:- D Burridge, M Cox and L Scott.

### **RESIDENTS PARKING SURVEY**

Officers had been looking at how residents parking schemes were operated in other authority areas. A number appeared to use a zoned system, with parking allowed within a number of streets within that zone. Braintree and Maldon, that had similar characteristics to Uttlesford, still operated a street only scheme. Les Scott had identified additional streets, including New Street and Freshwell Street that could be included in the existing scheme in Saffron Walden. He stressed that it was important not to put in restrictions if they only served to move the problems to neighbouring streets.

The order for Little Larchmount was still being considered by County Highways. An approach had been made by some residents of Thaxted for residents parking in some of the streets there, although it was likely that the scheme would be too small for it to pay for itself.

No further progress could be made until there had been a reply from the County regarding a complete review of the scheme. It was likely that the cost would be in the region of £18k - £20k. The Area Highway Office still had major staffing problems and it was not sure when there would be a reply.

### **LINING AND SIGNAGE**

Les Scott was concerned at the state of the lines and signs in a number of locations in the district. In places where these were not clear, or had worn away, it was not possible to enforce the restrictions. There were particular problems in Town Street in Thaxted and Dunmow High Street. It was understood that there were problems with the County's contractors.

### **PAY AND DISPLAY MACHINES**

It was expected that the machines would start to be installed by the end of the March and the marketing campaign had started. Officers had been asked to feed the information into the procurement hub to see if they could be obtained more cheaply. The Chief Executive had asked if the electronic payment cards used by the Council could also be used as the 'smart card to pay for parking. This would be explored.

The new machines would be installed in two phases. There had recently been concerns about the security of the machines in the Swan Meadow car park and as this car park had been included in the second phase, it was proposed that these machines be strengthened at an approximate cost of £900.

## **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004**

The DfT was putting the proposals out to public consultation and it was expected that the Act would be in force in summer 2008. The major affect on Uttlesford would be changes in how the Parking Attendants operated on the ground.

## **BLUE BADGE SCHEME**

Officers had attended a meeting at ECC and it was clear from the evidence presented that the Blue Badge scheme was being seriously abused and it would be a massive problem to sort out. The County Council would be carrying out a review of the scheme.

## **STAFFING**

Les Scott said that the section currently had an establishment of 6 full time equivalent Parking Attendants. Two staff were currently on long term sick leave. Recruitment was underway for a full time post and it was proposed that the runner up for this position would be offered the position of 33.5 hrs currently filled by agency staff. They would also be trying to establish a pool of staff that would be willing to be on standby, rather than using agency staff for this role.

It was also noted that three Parking Attendants had obtained a City and Guilds qualification under the Traffic Management Act.