

**Committee:** ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 19 January 2010

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**Title:** CAR PARKING ORDERS

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Item for decision

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## Summary

1. This report is to draw members' attention to the difficulty in preventing overnight camping in council car parks and to seek approval to an amendment to the Car Parking Orders in order to enhance enforcement.

## Recommendations

2. That members authorise officers to take the necessary steps towards moving to amend the Car Parking Orders to prohibit the parking of camper vans and vehicles towing caravans between the hours of 6 pm and 8 pm, 7 days a week.

## Background Papers

3. None.

## Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	The consultation process will need to take place before the orders can be amended.
Community Safety	None.
Equalities	None.
Finance	None.
Health and Safety	None.
Human Rights	None.
Legal implications	None.
Sustainability	None.
Ward-specific impacts	None.
Workforce/Workplace	None.

## Situation

5. Recently it has been noticed that caravans and motor caravans have been parked in council car parks (noticeably Swan Meadow) and are being camped in overnight.
6. Under the Council's current Car Parking Orders, there is nothing to prevent anyone parking a vehicle of any description or a caravan in council car parks overnight free of charge.
7. The council's Parking Orders do prohibit overnight camping. However, since decriminalisation a Car Parking Order is no longer a criminal offence. A fixed penalty parking notice may be affixed to the vehicle but only if there is evidence to show that somebody is sleeping in the vehicle or caravan. This can only be established by overnight surveillance. It is not a proportionate response to employ overnight surveillance to secure a fixed penalty notice.
8. If the parking orders were to be amended to prevent parking of certain types of vehicles overnight, this would enable fixed penalty notices to be affixed without any additional evidence being gathered thus it would be far easier to deal with the problem which has arisen.

## Risk Analysis

9.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Council car parks become used as camping and caravanning sites.	3, there is evidence that this has already happening albeit on a limited scale.	3, a number of residents have expressed their disquiet at the situation.	Appropriate steps to be taken to ensure effective and efficient enforcement against overnight campers.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.