

## **CAR PARKS AT ALEXANDRA AND GIBRALTAR RECREATION GROUND**

<b>Head of Service/Contact:</b>	Joy Stevens, Head of Customer Services & Business Support
<b>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</b>	No
<b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b>	N/A
<b>Annexes/Appendices (attached):</b>	None
<b>Other available papers (not attached):</b>	None stated

### **Report summary**

This report proposes that the car parks at Alexandra Recreation Ground and Gibraltar Recreation Ground be added to the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order June 2018 and that enforceable parking restrictions be introduced within these car parks.

### **Recommendation (s)**

That the Committee:

- (1) **Agrees to a proposal to add the car parks at Alexandra Recreation Ground and Gibraltar Recreation Ground to the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order June 2018;**
- (2) **Agrees to introduce a 4 hour maximum stay restriction, no return within 1 hour, between the hours of 8:00am – 6:00pm Monday to Friday.**
- (3) **Authorises the Chief Legal Officer to publish such notice(s) and/or make such order as is considered necessary to give effect to the recommendations;**
- (4) **Agrees that any objections or representations received following consultation are brought back to a future Environment and Safe Communities Committee.**
- (5) **Agrees to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council officers enforcing parking restrictions within these car parks as per the Off Street Parking Places Order.**

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## **1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy**

- 1.1 The proposal would support our community by maximising parking spaces within Alexandra Recreation Ground and Gibraltar Recreation Ground for those wishing to use the recreation grounds and their facilities.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Alexandra Recreation Ground contains two car parks comprising of a total of 24 parking bays. This includes three bays for use exclusively with a blue badge.
- 2.2 Gibraltar Recreation Ground contains 28 parking bays. There are currently no designated blue badge bays within the car park.
- 2.3 There are currently no parking restrictions in place in either car park.
- 2.4 Both the car parks at Alexandra Recreation Ground and Gibraltar Recreation Ground are within a reasonable walking distance of a local train station.
- 2.5 Alexandra Recreation Ground is open 24 hours a day, Gibraltar Recreation Ground is locked half an hour before sunset by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council rangers.
- 2.6 Users of the facilities at the recreation grounds have remarked to Borough and County Councillors that parking spaces are becoming harder to find since recent on-street parking restrictions have been introduced on local highways.
- 2.7 Due to the concerns raised a study was conducted of the vehicles parked in these car parks. In the main car park of Alexandra Recreation Ground 17 vehicles were parked at 10:30am. 12 of these vehicles remained in the same position at 3.55pm.
- 2.8 On the same day in Gibraltar Recreation Ground car park of the 22 vehicles parked at 11am, 11 remained at 3:30pm.
- 2.9 In the Parking Review of 2016, discussed at Environment Committee in January 2017, the Members of the Car Parking Working Group felt that the car parks within the Borough Council's recreation grounds should remain free of charge for those wishing to use the park.
- 2.10 In July 2018 the Car Parking Working Group discussed the introduction of a maximum stay parking restriction within the aforementioned car parks and recommended that a maximum stay of four hours be introduced to run from 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday. No return would be permitted to the car park within one hour.

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- 2.11 A request was also made to carry out a similar assessment on a Saturday in Alexandra Recreation Ground. On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018 of the 13 vehicles parked at 10:30am only 1 remained in place at 3:15pm. On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018 of the 29 vehicles situated within the car park at 10:30am (including several parked out of a marked bay) only 3 remained in the same place at 3:15pm.
- 2.12 At peak times car park users have been seen to park outside of marked bays. This can be hazardous for both pedestrians and other vehicles using the car park or for emergency vehicles wishing to gain access.
- 2.13 Vehicles have also been seen to park in the bays designated for disabled drivers in Alexandra Recreation Ground without displaying a blue badge.

## 3 Proposals

- 3.1 To add the car parks at Alexandra Recreation Ground and Gibraltar Recreation Ground to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Off Street Parking Places Traffic Order June 2018.
- 3.2 To introduce a maximum stay of 4 hours, no return within 1 hour, from 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday.
- 3.3 For Epsom & Ewell Borough Council civil enforcement officers to enforce parking contraventions as per the Off Street Parking Places Order June 2018, which will include but are not limited to vehicles parked for longer than the maximum period permitted, vehicles parked beyond the bay markings, vehicles parked in a disabled person's space without clearly displaying a valid disabled person's badge and vehicles re-parked within one hour of leaving a bay or space in a car park.
- 3.4 To introduce signage in to the car parks informing car park users of the restrictions in place.
- 3.5 To introduce at least one blue badge bay within Gibraltar Recreation Ground.

## 4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 The total cost of signage and lining is estimated to be £2,800 and would be met from existing car park budgets. Any income from penalty charge notices would off-set some of these costs.
- 4.2 The monitoring of these car parks will be incorporated into existing patrols and therefore there will be no increase in staffing costs.
- 4.3 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** It is not envisaged that these proposals will impact upon ongoing revenue budgets, and no additional income has been assumed. The set-up costs can be met from existing car park budgets.

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**5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality) and Monitoring Officer's comments:**

5.1 Off street parking is regulated by Orders made under Part IV of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. There is a statutory process to be followed if an order is to be made or amended.

5.2 In summary the process is as follows:

5.2.1 Prior to making an order there is a requirement to consult with certain organisations, to publish a notice of proposals in a local newspaper, and to display/deliver notices in places affected by the proposals.

5.2.2 If any objections are made to the proposals, the Council must consider these and may make modifications to the proposals. If the modifications are significant and may affect certain persons, they should be given further opportunity to make representations about the modifications.

5.2.3 The Council may then make the order.

5.3 The Council must then publish and where relevant give notice that it has made the order, setting out details such as a brief statement of the general nature of the order and description of the key provisions.

5.4 After this has all been done the order can come into effect.

5.5 Where an order makes provision as to the charges to be paid in connection with the use of an off-street parking place, and there is a proposal only to vary the charges to be paid, it is not necessary to make a full new order; a shorter process is available under section 35C of the 1984 Act.

5.6 A notice of variation of parking charges must be published in a local newspaper at least 21 days before the new charges are to come into force. Notice must also be displayed in the parking place. There is no provision for representations to be made or considered.

**6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications**

6.1 The aims of the proposal are to provide the maximum number of parking spaces for car park users wishing to use the facilities at the recreation grounds. They are also designed to improve safety of all car park users.

**7 Partnerships**

7.1 The Council would seek to work with the long term hirers of facilities at the recreation grounds to ensure that the introduction of parking restrictions would not impact on their use.

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**8 Risk Assessment**

- 8.1 There is a risk that some vehicles may have to park on the Highway rather than in unmarked locations within the car park.

**9 Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 9.1 In order for enforceable measures to be introduced, officers are seeking the Committee's authority to instigate the appropriate statutory process to enable these to be put in place.

**Ward(s) affected:** College Ward; Ewell Ward;