

## **RESULT OF CONSULTATION RESPONSE BASED ON THE KINGSTON ROAD AND TOWN HALL/HOPE LODGE CAR PARKS**

<b>Head of Service:</b>	Rod Brown, Head of Housing & Community
<b>Wards affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</b>	No
<b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b>	
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	Appendix 1 Response details

### **Summary**

This report considers options on changes to the Off-Street Parking Places Traffic Order concerning the introduction of charges to Stoneleigh car park and the removal of the barriers from Town Hall and Hope Lodge car parks, as outlined in the previous Committee meeting in November 2021, in consideration of the representations received.

### **Recommendation (s)**

#### **The Committee is asked to:**

- (1) Consider the representations to the proposed changes in Stoneleigh Parade Car Park and advise whether it wishes to**
  - a) approve**
  - b) amend or**
  - c) withdraw the proposal in place.**
- (2) Approve the removal of car park barriers in Town Hall and Hope Lodge car park.**

### **1 Reason for Recommendation**

- 1.1 A total of fourteen representations were received in regards to the proposed changes in Stoneleigh Parade car park. Two of these representations were supportive, one neutral and the other eleven were against some elements of the changes.

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- 1.2 No representations were received in regards to the removal of barriers in Town Hall and Hope Lodge.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 In November 2021 two reports were brought to Committee proposing changes in the Borough Council car parks. The first report focussed on proposed changes to Stoneleigh Parade car park, the second report sought approval to remove the barriers from the car parks in Town Hall and Hope Lodge.

- 2.2 In Stoneleigh Parade the introduction of charges were proposed, via permit and cashless options, with the aims being to:

2.2.1 Ensure that the car park is used correctly for its intended purpose

2.2.2 Deter anti-social behaviour such as flytipping, littering and vehicle abandonment from occurring

2.2.3 Continue to support the local businesses by offering free parking for up to 3 hours

2.2.4 Generate some revenue to provide the necessary upkeep and maintenance works required to the car park.

- 2.3 The proposal was for the introduction of permit and cashless parking options in the car park as follows:

Parking up to 3 hours (No return within 1 hour)	Free
Parking up to 5 hours (8:30am – 6:30pm)	£4
Parking over 5 hours (8:30am – 6:30pm)	£6
Evening parking (6:30pm – 8:30am)	£1
Sunday parking over 3 hours	£1
Annual resident permit	£390
Annual Business / Non-resident permit	£715

- 2.4 The proposal was advertised in the Epsom Comet, by signage within the car park and by letter sent to 144 local resident or business addresses.

## 3 Representations

- 3.1 In total fourteen representations were received to the proposed changes. Two were supportive, one neutral and the other eleven were against the proposal (see appendix 1).

- 3.2 The reasons stated in the objections from local residents were as follows:

- The cost was too high, it should be free for residents.
- Littering and abandoned vehicles are not a major issue

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- It will not support local businesses
- Maintenance of the car park is not required
- The car park is not overcrowded
- Residents will be forced to park in local streets
- The evening charge will deter people from using local restaurants.

3.3 The reasons stated in the three objections sent in from a local business were:

- They have ten members of staff, most who travel some distance, so the cost of permits would be unaffordable
- It would impact parking in residential roads

3.4 One response also raised a concern about users parking in local roads but also requested that any revenue raised would be ring fenced toward upkeep of the car park rather than unrelated Council issues.

3.5 No representations were received in regards to the removal of barriers at Town Hall and Hope Lodge car parks or in regards to the enforcement of electric vehicle charging bays.

3.6 The representations in full were considered and discussed at a Car Park Working Group Meeting at 5pm on 06/01/2022. The Car Park Working Group recommended that the proposal proceeds as advertised.

3.7 In response to the objections raised members of the Group commented as follows:

- The cost is benchmarked against other Council car parks with residential permits being the same as in the car parks at Hook Road and Chessington Road. The business permits are in line with those in Hook Road and Depot Road.
- The car park has attracted a number of anti-social issues in the past. Littering and flytipping have occurred and been removed, vehicles have been abandoned, the car park has been used as a temporary home and on each of these occasions there is a cost to the Council to repair or remove them.
- The three-hour free period, equivalent to the maximum free parking time available on Stoneleigh Parade will allow people to continue to visit local shops and businesses free of charge.

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- As well as the cost of dealing with anti-social issues, as mentioned above, there are costs involved in the maintenance or removal of the trees, plants and weeds as well as repairs to boundary walls and fences. A crash barrier was installed a few years ago as vehicles were damaging the property boundaries to the rear of the car park.
- The car park is well used, by private and commercial vehicles. One response suggests that this will free up parking space at times when they are unable to park.
- In any location a resident does not have the right to park outside their house, unless they have a private driveway. This is a Council car park used for multiple purposes and is not a private car park for local residents. Residents are able to park in other locations where parking restrictions permit.
- One local restaurant has its own car park. An evening charge of £1 payable for a stay of over 3 hours is unlikely to deter others.
- As with other car park permits bulk discounts can be considered and may be applied where deemed appropriate.

## 4 Risk Assessment

### Legal or other duties

#### 4.1 Impact Assessment

- 4.1.1 There is unlikely to be any great impact on the protected characteristics by this change of use.

#### 4.2 Crime & Disorder

- 4.2.1 Improvement in the upkeep of the Stoneleigh Parade car park coupled with closer monitoring and enforcement should facilitate a reduction in some of the anti-social behaviour which has historically occurred.

#### 4.3 Safeguarding

- 4.3.1 None arising from this report

#### 4.4 Dependencies

- 4.4.1 None arising from this report

#### 4.5 Other

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- 4.5.1 There is a risk that some current users of the Stoneleigh Parade car park will seek to park elsewhere, including in neighbouring residential roads. However due to its relatively close proximity to Stoneleigh Station there are already sufficient parking restrictions in place to prevent this during daytime hours.
- 4.5.2 There is a greater risk that people will use the Town Hall and Hope Lodge car parks to wait to collect or drop off a passenger. Increased signage and the use of enforcement will be used to keep this to a minimum.
- 4.5.3 If the Town Hall and Hope Lodge car parks are full there will be nothing to stop more cars entering, however the exit route in both is fairly simple and vehicles will not be charged until they have parked.

### 5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 When considering fee levels for 2022/23 Car Park Working Group has considered income from charging in this car park to help meet the proposed income budget. Should the amendment not proceed, alternative income options will need to be considered, such as higher charges in other Council car parks.
- 5.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** The Council is facing a future budget deficit and must take action to avoid the on-going use of limited one-off reserves. In order to achieve this, services must become more sustainable by either reducing expenditure budgets or offsetting costs with income generation.

### 6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 As per the statutory process of making or amending a Traffic Order the Council is required to consider any objections and may make modifications to the proposals if so wished.
- 6.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** to be completed by Legal Department

### 7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:  
An Effective Council
- 7.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** Anticipated reduction in environmental crimes such as flytipping and littering.

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7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** None arising from this report

7.5 **Partnerships:** The Council has consulted publicly and with local residents and businesses and the outcome from this consultation has been included in the report.

## 8 Background papers

8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

### **Previous reports:**

- Kingston Road Car Park (Stoneleigh) 24 November 2021
- Town Hall / Hope Lodge car parks 24 November 2021

### **Other papers:**