

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

23 May 2017

The meeting commenced at 9.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paul Beck, Dave Hunter, Brenda Loynes and George Springer

In accordance with Council Procedure 5.2 (ii) Councillor Brenda Harrison was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Sandra Belcher and Councillor Alan Clark was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Jean Robinson

Also Present: Councillor Thompson

Officers: Denise Ogden, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Tony Hanson, Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services  
Peter Frost, Highways Traffic and Transport Team Leader  
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **98. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Sandra Belcher and Jean Robinson.

### **99. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **100. Minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2017**

Received

**101. Seaton Carew Car Parking** (*Assistant Director, Environment and Neighbourhood Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To seek approval for a number of amendments to the parking controls introduced in Seaton Carew, following public consultation.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Assistant Director presented the report which provided background information to the decision taken in December 2016 by the Committee to introduce seasonal car parking charges at Seaton Carew and to undertake consultation events in order to gauge the views of residents, businesses and members of the public.

The first of the consultation events had been held on 10 May 2017, when positive discussions had taken place, which led to a number of proposals, as detailed in Section 5 of the report, and included the following:-

- Seaton Carew Car Park, Station Lane – disc parking scheme to be extended from 1 hour to 2 hours;
- The Front – on street disc parking scheme to be extended from 30 minutes to 1 hour;
- The Front/The Cliff – joint residents’ permit and pay and display bays to be amended to residents’ parking only and will continue to operate during the hours of 8.00 am and 8.00 pm. The area on the east side of the road adjacent to the clock tower/bus station, would become additional permit parking for businesses only;
- Pay and display hours of operation - to be amended from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm to 9.00 am to 6.00 pm for both the car parks and the on-street pay and display areas.

The Committee was advised that the provision of a bin store for the area behind the shops on the coast side of the Front would be considered in consultation with local businesses.

It was noted that two further consultation events would be held during the experimental period and considered as part of a review report in the autumn.

During the discussion that followed Members spoke in support of the proposals and the Chair provided clarification in response to queries raised.

Whilst the report was welcomed, a Member raised some concern in relation to the impact of the car parking charges on local businesses in Seaton Carew who had reported reductions in income since the charges had been implemented. The Chair advised that the financial impact of the charges could not be accurately assessed until the end of the experimental period in October and indicated that the proposals had been identified in response to the comments expressed at the first consultation meeting which included an extension of on street parking from 30 minutes to 1 hour to assist the needs of local businesses.

The Secretary of Seaton Carew Bowling Club, who was in attendance at the meeting, took the opportunity to thank the Committee for taking on board their comments. It was highlighted that whilst the proposals would address the issues in terms of provision for evening bowlers, further consideration of provision for afternoon bowlers would be welcomed. The Committee was asked to consider the provision of parking disks for afternoon bowlers which the Chair confirmed would be considered as part of the proposed review.

A Ward Member, who was in attendance, was pleased to note that elements of issues arising from the consultation event had been positively addressed in this report, the benefits of which were outlined. However, some concerns were raised in terms of the impact on visitor numbers to Seaton Carew that had been observed since the charges had been introduced and the subsequent impact on businesses and trade as a result. Various views were expressed regarding the level of visitor numbers over the last three weekends as well as the impact on local businesses.

A member of the public, who was invited to address the Committee, thanked the Committee for their support and was pleased to report that the concerns of residents had been considered. Disappointment was expressed, however, that as a result of a reduction in revenue, one business owner had reported a need to reduce staff working hours. Members were asked to consider the introduction of 'free Sunday parking' as part of the review.

The Assistant Director went on to respond to queries raised in relation to the timescales for installation of signage and the arrangements in place to accommodate disabled badge holders.

In response to comments expressed in relation to the benefits of publicising the changes to the public, Members were advised that a press release would be issued in this regard.

## Decision

- (i) That the following changes, for implementation as soon as possible , to enable their effect to be monitored over the remainder of the experimental period, be approved:-

**Seaton Carew Car Park, Station Lane** – disc parking scheme to be extended from 1 hour to 2 hours

**The Front** – on street disc parking scheme to be extended from 30 minutes to 1 hour.

### **The Front/The Cliff**

- The areas which are currently joint residents' permit and pay and display bays to be amended to residents' parking only. In line with the rest of the town, the resident parking areas will continue to operate during the hours of 8.00 am and 8.00 pm;
- The area on the east side of the road adjacent to the clock tower/bus station, will become additional permit parking for businesses only.

**Pay and Display Hours of Operation** - be amended from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm to 9.00 am to 6.00 pm for both the car parks and the on-street pay and display areas.

- (ii) That the provision of a bin store for the area behind the shops on the coast side of the Front be considered in consultation with local businesses.
- (iii) That two further consultation events be held during the experimental period and those views, not incorporated above, together with any determined from these future events, be collated for consideration by the Neighbourhood Services Committee as part of their review report in the autumn.
- (iv) That the comments of all contributors, as detailed above, be noted and considered as part of the Committee's review report.

The meeting concluded at 9.35 am

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 31 MAY 2017**

