

**NOTE OF THE PARKING PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT FORUM
HELD ON MONDAY 3 MARCH 2014 AT 8.00PM
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE**

Attendees

1. Those attending were:

Cllr Ian Reay, Chair
Clive Birch, Resident representative
Danny Bonnett, Transition Town Berkhamsted
David Carter, Resident representative
Cllr David Collins
Ivor Eisenstadt, Business representative
Cllr Tom Ritchie
Cllr Garrick Stevens
Ian Stephenson, Resident representative
Jacky Webby, School representative

Cllr Nick Tiley DBC, for the item on the multi-storey car park

Gary Cox, Town Clerk

Apologies

2. Apologies had been received from Jerry Wright.

Minutes

3. The minutes of the last meeting held on 23 October 2013 were agreed.

Multi-storey car park

4. Cllr Nick Tiley, DBC Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources provided an update on progress on the possible multi-storey car park.
5. Cllr Tiley reported that DBC Cabinet had agreed to move forward to the second phase of design and planning for the multi-storey car park. That phase would involve extensive consultation with residents and businesses on proposals and their impact on the town. The Parking Forum would be part of that collaborative and consultative approach.
6. DBC Cabinet noted that £3.5m had been included in the Borough's capital programme to build the car park and that the financial payback period for the car park would be 20 years, rather than the usual 12 year period. Cabinet also recognised issues around traffic circulation and air quality that would need to be addressed.
7. Cllr Tiley reported that work was underway to address these issues, including initial discussions with Waitrose to explore one way access and exit to all the car parks at Lower Kings Road, Waitrose and St John's Well Lane. The potential for free car parking for a period or for car park users to have some parking fees reimbursed by shops, restaurants and other businesses in return for spending in one of those premises were also being considered.
8. The indicative timetable was to develop an outline design for the car park, to consult with the town to develop detailed proposals from that consultation in 2014; to tender and build the car park in 2015; and for the car park to open in early 2016.

9. The following points were raised in discussion:
- the Borough Council would be considering discounted rates for those who would use long stay parking on a regular basis
 - traffic flow arrangements for the car park would be modelled and would include delivery lorries to shops and businesses at the rear of the High Street
 - to reduce the considerable disruption during construction, there could be speedier and more off-site construction of a brick-faced the car park in under 12 months that would help with sustainability;
 - that there were green plant options for facing than brick that would also help improve air quality **Action: Clive Birch to send a link on green plant options for car parks to Cllr Tiley.**
 - Car park arrangements should allow for maximum usage, including for example, use of long stay spaces for employees by others if the bay is not occupied, for example by 10.00am, and at weekends and Bank Holidays.
10. Ivor Eisenstadt reported that the Berkhamsted Chamber of Commerce supported proposals for the multi-storey car park, provided that there is a viable solution to potential traffic flow problems.

Transition Town Berkhamsted Survey on multi-storey car park

11. Danny Bonnett provided a summary of an initial analysis of results of 279 responses to an on-line survey conducted on line by Transition Town Berkhamsted regarding the proposed car park, that:

Is there a parking problem in Berkhamsted Town Centre?

Yes: 79%

No: 18%

Why is this?

Not enough parking space: 43%

Too many cars: 25%

Not enough free parking: 15%

Lack of alternatives to the car: 10%

Response to proposed multi-storey car park at Lower Kings Road

Support the idea: 16%

Tentatively support but want more specific information: 28%

Ask what else could be done with/other options considered for the site: 12%

Object to the idea: 26%

Themed suggestions from responses were:

	Number of Comments made
We need parking somewhere	26
Let's look for alternatives	26
Extra capacity is not the answer	21
It must be in-keeping	20
Better manage the spaces we do have	15
Free hour parking	8
It needs to be reasonably priced	7
Important for business	6

12. A final question asked if there should be more holistic consultation on a Town Plan for the town centre area, including parking and traffic management.

Support	49%
Tentatively support but want more information	35%
Not sure	12%
Tentatively object	2%
Object	1%

13. Transition Town Berkhamsted would be undertaking more analysis of results and specific comments made in response to questions.
14. The Group recognised that survey had a small number of participants and agreed that, in due course, the survey might be extended to more residents and businesses and form part of the wider consultation on the car park proposed by DBC.

Car Park fees and improved signage at St Johns Well Lane Car Park

15. The Group noted proposed increases to pay and display car park fees and welcomed proposals to improve signage at St Johns Well Lane car park better to publicise the differing short- and long-stay bays available.

Short Term Shopper Parking on Charles Street

16. The Group considered DBC proposals to introduce two short stay parking bays outside shops on Charles Street. The Group welcomed proposals and suggested that, following discussion with shopkeepers, a 15 minute (rather than the proposed 20 minutes) maximum stay with no return within 2 hours would be sufficient.
17. The Group also suggested that there was room for short stay parking for up to 10 cars; that this extended parking bay should be considered; and that the parking bays should be available for resident parking outside shop opening times.

Safer Routes to School

18. The Group discussed proposals for pedestrian footpath improvements at the Kings Road, Shootersway and Kingshill Way Junction and at Bridle Way and Haynes Mead to Bridgewater School
19. The Group noted that work had started on the Kingshill Way improvements. Jacky Webby advised that Ashlyns School and the School Travel Forum had been consulted on proposals. Work was recognised as being an interim solution, pending traffic light being installed using s106 funds from the proposed housing development at Shootersway/Durrants Lane.
20. The Group welcomed the proposed new footpath from Haynes Mead to Bridgewater School.
21. Jacky Webby advised that Herts County Council Safer Routes to School Team was also considering options for a school crossing to Ashlyns at Hilltop Road. The School Travel Forum, in conjunction with the Safer Routes to School Team was looking at ways of changing driver attitudes. This included 'Walk and Stride' where parents park in a car park in the town and walk their children to school. A 'walking map' showing car park and footpaths is being produced to support this initiative.

Urban Transport Plan

22. The Group agreed with the three priorities in the Urban Transport Plan to be:

- Scheme 04 - Improvements at Shootersway/Kingshill Way junction
- Scheme 30 - Speed management on Kings Road (between Shooterway and High Street)
- Scheme 36 - Traffic calming and extension of 20mph Zone to include Gravel Path

23. Jack Webby advised that the School Travel Forum had also identified a reduced speed limit outside Ashlyns School as a priority and this had been accepted by Herts County Council.

Provision of parking arrangements

24. The Committee reviewed work undertaken to enhance parking provision across the town.

The Group noted work underway was:

- Provide more cycle racks – under consideration by HCC
- The Chamber of Commerce to promote business to exchange their travel plans/journeys made by employees into the town and to explore if, collectively, they can make use of liftshare.com.
- Improvements to line markings to increase parking spaces and restrict poor parking
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church was providing permits for their car park spaces and there may be further scope for use by employees at businesses in the town. The Chamber of Commerce would inform members to contact the Church should they wish to apply for permits.
- Parking provision standards for new building developments are in DBC's Core Strategy. These standards will be considered again when the Core Strategy was next reviewed.

25. The Group also noted proposals that had been explored but could not be taken forward:

- Extending Ashridge Management College Bus Service to round-the town bus service
- Fuller use of the underground Tesco car park.
- Use Kitcheners Field for school parking or making spaces available to commuters
- Station Car park to reduce prices/offer 'part-time' season tickets for part-time commuters – not accepted
- Use of Library Car Park, although spaces are made available to Sunday market traders
- Use of SportSpace Car Park
- DBC work to provide verge hardening to support on-street parking had not included any work in Berkhamsted

26. The Group welcomed work by the Football Club to provide car up to 20 parking spaces for rent, offered to members of the Chamber of Commerce.

27. Other potential work identified by the Group to create spaces for car parking was:

- Green space at the junction of Holiday Street and Chapel Street could be 'greencreted to provide parking spaces
- Castle Street towards the Canal Bridge had sufficient space for parking bays to be installed

Discouraging cars from parking too far on pavements

28. The Group discussed ways in which to raise public and resident awareness of problems caused by parking too far on pavements, particularly on Charles Street and George Street, where those in wheelchairs or with buggies could not pass on the pavement.

Review of road line markings

29. The Group considered concerns raised by residents regarding parking on Broadwater, Charles Street and Castle Gate Way as part of a wider review of road line markings.
30. On parking on Broadwater, searches regarding the road beyond the Sport Club has shown that the stretch of road is unregistered. The County Council is to be asked if it would consider adopting that part of the road before any permission for parking restrictions can be obtained.
31. Clive Birch advised that parking problems of parking on corners and across driveways in Charles Street and Castle Gate Way are two of a number of parking issues identified from a review of road markings. Work is continuing to identify locations where line markings would prevent dangerous and obstructive parking and where removal of lines would safely permit more car parking.

Berkhamsted Schools Joint Travel Forum

32. The terms of reference and minutes of the Joint Travel Forum meeting on 29 January and 26 February 2014 were noted.

Date of Next Meeting

33. The date of the next Parking Forum meeting was set for Tuesday 6 May at 8.00pm in the Council Chamber.