



CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP

21 February 2018

Minutes of the Civil Parking Enforcement Task and Finish Group held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bexhill-on-Sea on Wednesday 21 February 2018 at 10:00am.

Members of the Task and Finish Group Present:

Councillor A.K. Azad
Councillor J. Barnes
Councillor J.J. Carroll
Councillor R.C. Carroll
Councillor C.A. Clark
Councillor S.H. Earl
Councillor S.D. Elford (Chairman)
Councillor K.M. Field
Councillor J. Potts
Councillor C.J. Saint
Councillor G.F. Stevens

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor I.R. Hollidge
Councillor Mrs S.M. Prochak

Invited:

Michael Horton – East Sussex County Council
Carl Valentine – East Sussex County Council

Officers Present:

Dr Anthony Leonard – Executive Director of Business Operations
Julie Hollands – Democratic Services Officer

CPE17/32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B. Kentfield and Lisa Hayward-Bartlett, Operations Team Leader.

CPE17/33. MINUTES OF LAST THE MEETING

(2)

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 29 November 2017 were agreed.

The following matter arising was discussed:

Pett Road / Arthurs Close, Pett: it was confirmed that the installation of yellow lines at this location had been included on the requests and action spreadsheet to be considered at the first annual review after Civil Parking Enforcement had been adopted.

REPORT OF THE CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman welcomed Michael Horton – Project Manager, Parking and Carl Valentine – Head of Transport and Operational Services from East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to the meeting.

Members considered and discussed the proposed report of the Civil Parking Enforcement Task and Finish Group (CPET&FG) including the recommendations to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on Monday 19 March 2018.

The report represented the culmination of findings from work commenced in October 2017, flowing from evidence gathered and information provided by ESCC, stakeholder engagement and other findings from the CPET&FG's work over the last six months.

During discussion the following was noted:

- **Urban/Rural:** Members thought there was a specific distinction between car parking demand in rural and urban locations, particularly where railway stations were located. Car parking spaces were being utilised (all-day) by commuters, therefore it was important that the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) scheme provided appropriate parking restrictions / charging zones to ensure regular turnover. It was agreed that the report should be amended to reflect this.
- **Loading Bays:** Request that the loading bay be removed from Robertsbridge High Street as it was no longer required. This would be welcomed by residents as off-street parking was limited in this area. ESCC agreed to amend the scheme. Request that a loading bay be installed in Western Road, Bexhill, in order to ease traffic congestion during unloading / loading times. ESCC agreed to consider this during the first annual review. To improve loading bay usage during off-peak times (overnight), it was suggested that time-restricted free parking be offered.

ESCC reminded Members that introducing additional (too many) Traffic Regulation Orders to the current scheme could further delay the CPE process, as comprehensive consultation, agreement from relevant organisations and ministerial approval would need to be completed and sought. Objections might also be received which could further delay the process. Once CPE was introduced, annual reviews would be undertaken to consider the effectiveness / practicalities of the scheme. Therefore, suggestions for alterations would be considered and consulted on at that time.

It was generally agreed that until the CPE scheme was adopted and enforcement was in place, it was extremely difficult to predict car parking demand and how spaces would be used. The new scheme had the potential to change parking behaviours, therefore dissipating anticipated problematic areas.

Members were supportive of all the recommendations proposed and suggested that the OSC reconvene the CPET&FG to consider the first annual review of the adopted CPE scheme, if approved by full Council and the Department for Transport. It was also suggested that during the first annual review, the OSC consider assessing the impact of CPE on the usage and charging structure of the Council's off-street parking operation.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) East Sussex County Council remove the loading bay in Robertsbridge High Street from the Rother Civil Parking Enforcement Scheme;
- 2) the report be amended, to specify that car parking demand varied between rural and urban locations;
- 3) the following recommendations be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2018:
 - i. that Rother District Council write to East Sussex County Council to support an application to be submitted to the Department for Transport for Civil Parking Enforcement to be adopted;
 - ii. in applying for Civil Parking Enforcement, East Sussex County Council attempt to recover shared costs with Wealden District Council who are no longer progressing to assist in keeping costs down;
 - iii. the current charging structure and tariffs in Rother District Council's off-street car parks remain unchanged until the Civil Parking Enforcement decision, is taken;
 - iv. the Council's off-street parking provision remain under the current management framework of The District of Rother Parking Places Order 1983;
 - v. that when the Council's Planning Core Strategy is reviewed, that Electric Vehicle Charging Points be considered in planning policy, and subject to government advice received, as well as technological and industry advances;
 - vi. the indicative timetable for Civil Parking Enforcement be noted;
 - vii. that future East Sussex County Council consultation on the detail of the Traffic Regulation Orders changes liaise with the affected Ward Members to obtain the Council's comments for their areas;
 - viii. that the Civil Parking Enforcement Task and Finish Group be reconvened to consider the first annual review of the Civil Parking Enforcement Scheme; and
 - ix. during the first annual review, assessment of the impact of Civil Parking Enforcement be considered on the usage and charging

structure of the Council's off-street parking operation.

(Councillors J. Barnes, C.A. Clark, S.H. Earl and S.D. Elford each declared a personal interest in this matter in so far as they are elected Members of East Sussex County Council and in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct remained in the room during consideration thereof).

(Councillor K.M. Field declared a personal interest in this matter in so far as she is an elected Member of East Sussex County Council and its Planning Committee and in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct remained in the room during consideration thereof).

CPE17/35. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(5)

There were no any other business items proposed.

The Chairman thanked Michael Horton and Carl Valentine from East Sussex County Council for attending and supporting all of the Civil Parking Enforcement meetings. He also thanked officers and Democratic Services for their support and organisation of the meetings.

CPE17/36. TERMS OF REFERENCE

(6)

The Chairman advised Members that in light of the fact that the CPE Task and Finish Group had now completed its Terms of Reference, he proposed the Group be dissolved. He advised that the good work of the Group along with its Minutes would be brought to the attention of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 19 March 2018.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 10:25am.

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