



Devizes Town Council

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Planning Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: 17 October 2017

Time: Immediate following Full Council

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 722160

Mayor: Councillor Carter

Chairman: Councillor Geddes

Councillors:	Mrs Bridewell	Mrs Burton	Corbett
	Evans	Mrs Evans	Gay
	Giraud-Saunders	Godwin	Greenwood
	Hopkins	Johnson	Nash
	Parsons	Mrs Rose	Rowland
	Mrs Shaw	Stevens	Ms Von Berg
	Wooldridge		

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2017 and which have been circulated alongside the agenda.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions, make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chairman's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business.

5. Details of Planning Applications for Consideration are attached (doc 5/1).

Members wishing to make enquiries about any of the applications listed or inspect plans before the meeting are advised to do so on line at Wiltshire Council.

6. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL'S NOTICE OF PLANS GRANTED OR REFUSED

Attached (doc 6/1) a list of plans granted, refused or withdrawn.

7. REPORT FOR DECISION – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL'S PLANNING SYSTEM

Recommendation

That the committee decides if there are any comments it wishes to make on the way in which members access planning information following Wiltshire Council's decision for the consultation to be paperless.

Purpose of the Report

To provide an opportunity to pass back the Town Council's views on the way it now considers planning applications following Wiltshire Council's decision to make the process paperless.

Background

On the 31 July 2017 Wiltshire Council stopped issuing paper plans for town and parish councils to view prior to formally commenting on planning applications.

Councillors are now required to visit the "planning portal" prior to a meeting to familiarise themselves with an application. Information is circulated to members via email.

Now that the new system has been in place for 2 months Councillors are asked if there are any ongoing issues now any initial issues should have been resolved, and if there is any option to enhance the current system.

Comments will then be passed back to Wiltshire Council.

Options Considered

That the Committee agrees on any observations it wishes to make to Wiltshire Council about the current arrangements for viewing planning applications prior to making a formal comment on the merits of the paperless system.

Implications and Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

Officers are unaware of any financial or resource implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence.

Environmental Implications

Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Risk Assessment

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

8. REPORT FOR DECISION – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARKING CHARGE CONSULTATION 2017

Recommendation

That the committee considers if it wishes to respond to Wiltshire Council's parking charge consultation.

Purpose of the Report

To provide an opportunity for the Town Council to comment on Wiltshire Council's parking charge consultation 2017.

Background

Wiltshire Council are asking communities for their views on the options to review car parking charges in Wiltshire.

The council advises they face significant financial challenges as a result of a reduction in funding from Central Government and an increasing demand on front line services.

To meet these challenges, they have looked at all council services and considered where further efficiencies can be made and where there is an opportunity to generate additional income.

The council's parking services are also facing significant cost pressures, including business rate payments, essential equipment upgrades, maintenance works and inflation costs. The demands on the service from residents, schools, businesses and parish councils are also increasing. Importantly, the surplus revenue from parking charges supports other transport measures including essential local bus services.

Wiltshire Council have considered that a number of charging policies and practices in relation to car parking need to be looked at again. And to this end, the Council has identified a number of possible charging options.

They are now seeking views on which of these options, if any, communities feel could be considered for implementation to help address the Council's financial and demand pressures.

Circulated alongside this agenda are the following documents

- **Appendix 1 – Range of Parking Charges in Wiltshire Options Considered** This is a summary of current charges for short, long and private car parks.
- **Appendix 2 – Range of Parking Charges in Key Competitor Towns**
- **Appendix 3: Schedule of Proposed Increased Car Parking Charges Off Street**
- **Appendix 4: Proposed Charges in Currently Free Car Parks**
- **Appendix 5: Proposed Season Ticket Charges**

As part of the Consultation, we have been asked if we support option 1 an inflationary increase to the current pay and display charges to cover the next 5 years as set out in appendix 3

There are two options offered:

- An inflationary increase to current pay and display parking charges (estimated value £708,000)
- Support a reduction in the equivalent funding of public transport and other highway services.

The next question advises that currently Sunday charging is applied only in Salisbury, and bank/public holiday charging only in Amesbury, Bradford on Avon, Melksham, Salisbury, Trowbridge, Warminster and Westbury. In the interest of improved fairness (i.e. between different towns in Wiltshire and between those people who park on Sundays and those who park Monday to Saturday) and efficiency (i.e. charging for the use of the car park service and asset), it is proposed that Sunday and bank/public holiday charges are introduced at all Wiltshire Council car parks. It is estimated this would raise an additional £78,000 a year

There are three options offered:

- O Wiltshire Council implements Sunday and bank holiday charges in all its car parks (including those that are currently free during the week)
- O Spreading the income requirement across the chargeable car parks within that local community with the resulting cost increase to parking charges
- O A reduction in the equivalent funding of public transport and other highway services.

Consultees are asked if for small number of parking facilities where currently no charges are applied, in the interest of improved fairness (i.e. between different towns in Wiltshire) and efficiency (i.e. charging for the use of the car parking service and asset), if the proposed charges were applied in all council parking facilities this would result in a projected annual increase of £95,000. *It should be noted this includes the Market Place in Devizes.* Details are set out in appendix 4

The next question relates to free parking where Wiltshire Council provides a number of free parking spaces to Town Councils to allocate on a discretionary basis to support local events and initiatives. However, a number of Town Councils have used this initiative to provide free parking in the Christmas shopping period when parking demand is already high. This is considered to undermine the full benefits of free event parking to local businesses and communities when compared to its use at other times of year when parking demand is typically lower. Given this, it is proposed that this initiative is withdrawn for use by Town Councils in the months of November and December. This would raise an additional £5,000 a year. *This policy would effectively result in the end of the Devizes Christmas light switch on as the cost of hiring the Market Place would be probative.*

There are two options offered:

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Would you support the council withdrawing the use of its free event parking offer in November and December? It is estimated this would raise an additional £5,000 a year.

- Yes I would support this
- No I would not support this [If you said no, why is this?]

Currently season ticket prices are heavily discounted by around 85% of the normal charges for parking. This creates a considerable discrepancy between standard charges and season tickets costs which could now be viewed as unfair. Therefore, in line with other local authorities, the council is proposing that the rate of discount is reduced to 50% of the normal parking charge. It is estimated this would raise an additional £280,000 a year. Details are set out in appendix 5.

There are three options offered:

- Wiltshire Council amending its season ticket prices so that they reflect at least 50% of the normal daily charge
- Spreading the income requirement across all chargeable car parks across Wiltshire with the resulting cost increase to parking charges
- A reduction in the equivalent funding of public transport and other highway services.

Residents' parking permits are issued to residents living within residents' parking zones for use with their own vehicle (permits issued can only be used with the vehicle assigned to the permit and are only valid for one year). Currently there are considerable differences between the rates charged across Wiltshire. Salisbury residents' permits cost £20 for permits in limited waiting zones and £40 for permits in residents' only zones, whereas £90 is charged in other areas across the county. Many neighbouring authorities also charge more for a second residents parking permit. It is estimated this would raise an additional £190,000 to £215,000 a year.

There are four options offered:

- Harmonising the charges for residents' permits and limited waiting permits across Wiltshire.
- Harmonising the charges for residents' permits and limited waiting permits charges across Wiltshire with the introduction of a two tiered charging regime with a second permit being a higher charge.
- Spreading the income requirement across all car parks across Wiltshire with the resulting cost increase to parking charges.

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- A reduction in the equivalent funding of public transport and other highway services.

At present Wiltshire Council allows a grace period of up to 15 minutes before a penalty charge notice is issued. It is proposed to reduce this grace period to 10 minutes which is the statutory minimum. In doing so this would help with the turnover of spaces at car parks and bring Wiltshire Council in line with national practice and guidance. It is estimated this would raise an additional £5,000 a year

There are two options offered:

- Yes I would support this
- No I would not support this

Finally, as part of the localism approach included in the car parking strategy, Wiltshire Council would welcome firm proposals from local communities and businesses and or commercial concerns to fund the estimated income increase in any car park(s) or area:

Consultees are asked give their views

Options Considered

The committee needs to decide how it wished to respond to Wiltshire Council's Parking Charge Consolation 2017

Implications and Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

Officers are unaware of any financial or resource implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence.

Environmental Implications

Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Risk Assessment

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

9. QUESTION TIME

A short time is allowed at the discretion of the Chairman for councillors to ask questions on matters which are not on the current agenda but which are related to matters which have been previously discussed on an agenda relevant to the committee.

At least 24 hours' notice must be given to officers of the intended question. All other matters should be raised on an agenda and the request should be submitted through the Town Clerk

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK