

SEVENOAKS TOWN PARKING REVIEW GROUP

NOTES OF MEETING NO. 22 - HELD 4 DECEMBER 2008

Present:	Gary Williamson	Portfolio Holder (The Built Environment)
	Ann Dawson	Local Member
	Elizabeth Purves	Local Member
	Jan Van der Velde	Chamber of Commerce
	Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks Town Council
	Linda Larter	Sevenoaks Town Council
	Russell Trenter	Representing Serpentine Road area
	Mike Bamforth	Residents Associations' Representative
	Chris Beach	Residents Associations' Representative
	Colin Smith	Residents Associations' Representative
	Richard Wilson	Head of Environmental & Operational Services
	Andy Bracey	Senior Engineer
	Gary Connor	Parking and Amenity Manager

(Note: Chris Beach, Linda Larter and Russell Trenter attended for part of the meeting).

Distribution: All Group members, Cllr Peter Fleming and Claire Beaumont.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Gary Williamson welcomed everyone to the meeting following which introductions were made.

APOLOGIES

Apologies from Philip Runacres and Jacqueline Heywood (Chamber of Commerce).

MATTERS ARISING

None.

SEVENOAKS PARKING REVIEW

RW explained the process concerning proposals resulting from this review of the parking scheme implemented earlier in the year, i.e. they would be subject to informal and then formal consultation before being reported to the Joint Transportation Board (JTB). We would be aiming to report to the JTB in March, although time might be tight. It was noted that sufficient time should be allowed for consultation on any proposed amendments.

It was queried whether there was a link between the proposals and a longer term strategy. RW explained that whereas problems had been dealt with in a piecemeal fashion in the past, the review had looked at the wider area around the town centre and the station forming a strategy for the town. It was noted that Kent County Council were looking at a detailed transport strategy for west Kent. GW pointed out that the area

needed to be set in order to progress the review. Issues on the periphery caused by displacement parking would need to be considered.

MB reminded that the prioritisation has been residents, town workers and then rail commuters. Permits for all three categories operate in Hitchen Hatch Lane with prices governed by the charges at the station, but people seem to be walking rather than paying to park. AB observed that commuters may have displaced to other areas such as Knockholt, Farningham Road and Dunton Green stations.

GC advised that questions on the parking review from the public had been considered by Cabinet on 31 July and it was noted that:-

- the cost of permits for non-residents would be considered
- the Council was aware of the displacement parking in the Bayham Road area
- consultation with businesses would be reviewed.

People attending the meeting had left their contact details so they could be included in the consultation to be undertaken.

AB had tabulated all issues raised since the parking proposals were implemented. These were then discussed individually with reference to plans showing suggested amendments. The following was agreed in respect to each entry as outlined and noted on the attached spreadsheet:

Item No.	Location	Outcome
1	Fiennes Way	Agreed
2	Greatness Road	Agreed
3	High Street	Agreed
4	Hillingdon Avenue / The Crescent	Agreed
5	Hop Garden Lane	Not agreed
6	Oakfields	Not agreed – review later
7	Plymouth Drive	Agreed
8	Plymouth Park	Agreed
9	Sackville Close	Agreed
10	Bradbourne Road	Agreed
11 & 15	South Park	Agreed
12	St Johns Hill	Agreed but make Monday to Friday only, not Saturdays
13	The Drive	Agreed
14	Valley Drive	Agreed (include options)
16	Braeside Avenue	Proposals to be similar to Stapleford Court (send details to Colin Smith for agreement)
17	Bosville Drive	Agreed
18	Cavendish Avenue	Not agreed
19	Bradbourne Park Road	Agreed
20	Mount Harry Road	Agreed
21	St Botolphs Road and Ashley Road	Not agreed
22	Hitchen Hatch Lane and Mount Harry Road	Not agreed
23	Buckhurst Avenue	Agreed
24	Serpentine Road	Agreed
25	Bayham Road	Agreed

26	Vine Court Road	Action noted
27	Greatness Lane	Not agreed – review later
28	Eardley Road	Agreed
29	London Road	Agreed
30	Mount Harry Road	Not agreed
31	The Drive	Agreed

BAYHAM ROAD AND SERPENTINE ROAD

The Council had acknowledged that displacement parking was occurring in these roads in connection with commuter parking for the town or the station or both. As no residents permits had been issued for the northern section of Vine Court Road (between Avenue Road and Holly Bush Lane) and as properties have their own parking, the Portfolio Holder had agreed to remove the restrictions as a temporary measure to relieve the pressure on Bayham and Serpentine Roads. This will come into effect next Monday.

Proposals for junction protections for Bayham and Serpentine Roads will be drawn up for consultation (AB and EP to meet on site to discuss).

HARTSLAND AREA

Various problems exist in the roads forming the Hartlands Area, but the main problem is the capacity of the roads and, due to their nature, an inability to provide the required level of parking facilities. Any scheme would likely result in a net loss of parking. It was suggested that a separate meeting be held with residents representatives to discuss the issues with a report back to the Group.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARKING CHARGES

RW outlined proposals forming the review for 2009/10 to meet budget increases or shortfalls. The following were proposed:

- Increase the 30 minute charge in Blighs car park by 10p to 60p
- Increase the 1 hour charge in the other town centre car parks by 10p to 80p
- Increase the day charge in the station car parks by 40p to £5.00
- Increase the season ticket charge in the station car parks by £25 to £935 (Bradbourne) and £975 (Sennocke)
- Increase the on-street al day charge for Sevenoaks and Swanley stations by 50p to £4.50 and £2.50 respectively
- Reduce the cost of a non-residents permit for town centre workers by £130 to £250 a year (equivalent to £1.11 a day)

These proposals are being reported to the Environment Select Committee on 9 December with any comments going forward to Cabinet on 18 December. On-street proposals may need to be reported to the JTB if objections are received.

MB noted that residents were concerned about the permit cost for station commuters, i.e. too low.

It was confirmed that the top of St Botolphs Road would still be reserved for town worker permit holders.

EP noted that the permit proposals may have a knock-on effect to residents parking in Vine Court Road.

The possibility of having differential permit rates for “poorer” workers was queried, but it was felt that it would not be possible to means-test applicants.

JV welcomed the reduced cost for permits as the introduction of the charge had been a huge increase for workers.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a query from MB it was confirmed that there had been a few residents permits issued for Hitchen Hatch Lane.

In response to a request that the Chairman of the Town Council’s Planning Committee attend the meetings, it was suggested that it would be more appropriate to have representation from KCC in the form of the central ward member.

AB confirmed that SDC had written to the DoT concerning a departure from national standards for signs at the Vine.

MB raised parking problems in the High Street (outside W H Smith and the Sennockian). It was noted the town centre area was outside the area of the review.

ACTION POINTS CARRIED TO NEXT MEETING

- Consultation to be undertaken in respect to the agreed amendments (note: people leaving details at Cabinet meeting on 31 July to be included).
- Proposals for junction protections for Bayham Road and Serpentine Road to be prepared for consultation subject to site meeting between AB and EP.
- Parking issues in the Hartland area to be discussed with residents’ representatives as part of a separate process.

NEXT MEETING

Date to be confirmed (for the end of February).