

REPORT TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

21 JANUARY 2014

CHANGE OF USE TO THE BUCKHURST 2 CAR PARK, SEVENOAKS

Report of the: Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Status: For decision

Executive Summary: This report requests approval to change the Buckhurst 2 car park to long stay only during the working week to help ease long stay parking problems.

This report supports the Key Aim of safer communities and the effective and efficient use of resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Roddy Hogarth

Head of Service Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services
Mr Richard Wilson

Recommendation: that the Buckhurst 2 car park be changed to long stay use only during the working week (i.e. Mondays to Fridays) and remains in dual short stay / long stay use on Saturdays.

1. Pressure on long stay parking have been increasing since the beginning of 2013, with season ticket holders for the Buckhurst 2 car park complaining about difficulty in finding a space.
2. Since the start of the Marks and Spencer development on the site of the old Blighs car park off London Road, further pressures have been put upon long stay parking in the town centre. The development has necessitated the loss of long stay spaces in the Pembroke Road car park which has led to more people attempting to use the only other long stay car park in the town, the Buckhurst 2 car park.
3. Although additional on-street permits were made available to help provide additional long stay parking facilities within walking distance of the town centre, greater use of the Buckhurst 2 car park is leading to over-utilisation of the car park.
4. Complaints are increasingly being received from business season ticket holders and day ticket users to the effect that spaces cannot be found and that the long stay parking facilities are inadequate.
5. Mindful that parking provision in the town centre is currently being reviewed, it is recommended that the Buckhurst 2 car park be changed to long stay only from

Mondays to Fridays as a temporary solution whilst the review is underway. This should help ease the pressure on the car park and help improve long stay provision.

6. The short stay element of the car park use can relocate to the other short stay car parks within the town centre where spaces are available, thereby freeing-up spaces for long stay users.
7. It is recommended that this change be included in the public consultation for the parking charges of 2014/15 as a change to the Council's Car Park Order will be required. Any responses received can then be considered by Cabinet in March, with a view to formally introducing the change at the beginning of April 2014.
8. However, in view of parking problems being experienced and in an attempt to ease the parking situation for business users without delay, it is recommended that the change be introduced as soon as possible. This should be possible over the next few weeks as soon as preparations to amend the car park signing have been put in hand. Although the change could not be legally enforced until the Car Park Order is amended, advisory notices could be issued to motorists who park for short stay periods ahead of the formal change being implemented.

Key Implications – Financial

9. Assuming that income from short stay use will simply transfer to the other short stay car parks within the town, there would not be any financial implications other than minor costs for changes to signing.

Community impact and outcomes

10. Short stay parking facilities would still be available so there should not be any detrimental effect in relation to the community.

Legal, Human Rights, etc.

11. There are no issues relating to human rights

Risk Assessment Statement

12. Should action not be taken to ease the long stay parking situation, parking problems relating to the long stay use and complaints from business users are likely to increase.

Sources of Information:

Contact Officer(s): Gary Connor (x7310)

RICHARD WILSON

CHIEF OFFICER ENVIRONMENTAL & OPERATIONAL SERVICES
