

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

25 JANUARY 2011

REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

COUNCIL HOUSING CAR PARKING – TOWN CENTRE FLATS

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To allow members to make a decision as whether or not to implement an enforceable car parking permit scheme for the HRA car parks in Melton Mowbray Town Centre.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that members choose one of the following options:

- (i) *The Committee approve the introduction of a chargeable car parking permit scheme that will be administered by Leicestershire County Council at a cost of £30 per permit to the resident.*
- (ii) *The Committee approve the introduction of a car parking permit scheme that is subsidised by Melton Borough Council and choose a price charge as set out in Appendix A.*
- (iii) *The Committee make a decision to not introduce any car parking permit scheme in HRA car parks in Melton Mowbray Town Centre.*

3. KEY ISSUES

3.1 Background

Melton Borough Council Officers were approached by the Tenants' Forum Executive Committee (TFEC) and local residents through the Town Centre Residents Association in 2009/10 regarding the illegal parking by non-residents at the town centre flats in HRA car parks. Officers were asked to explore options as to how illegal parking could be prevented.

Observations have taken place where it is clear that non-residents do use the car parks, some on a daily basis, to avoid having to pay for parking in the Council's pay and display car parks. Additionally the car parks are often full and residents, when they return from trips away, cannot find a space to park. The worst days are Tuesday and Saturday. Collectively there are 130 spaces (Appendix B) that currently can be used free of charge by the general public. Without a robust scheme to enforce illegal parking we cannot fine or penalise non-residents.

Additionally various consultations have taken place with local residents and TFEC at various stages of investigation into schemes, and it has been found that the least costly option to all tenants, leaseholders and Melton Borough Council is a permit scheme (Appendix C).

Consultations

As already stated various consultations have taken place, which are listed below in chronological order;

1. Written questionnaire and survey
2. Consultation with Town Centre Residents' Group
3. Consultation with TFEC

4. Formal written response from TFEC

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Agreeing to introduce a formal enforceable car parking scheme will mean that the Councils parking orders and policy will need adjusting in order to comply with regulations.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Potential financial implications have been highlighted in the main in section 3 above.

5.2 Although a formal study has not taken place it is estimated that the illegal parking may be one cause towards the reduction of income in the general Town Centre pay and display car parks.

5.3 There will be a negative impact to existing budgets only if members decide to introduce a scheme that is subsidised by the Council.

5.4 If any charge is implemented it must be noted that no benefit rebate is available against permit charges.

5.5 Initially to set up the scheme there will need to be an investment of approximately £8,000 to pay for new signage, legal documents and payment for increased patrols in and around the HRA car parks. This money would need to be met from within existing budgets.

5.6 As per Appendix A if members choose any type of subsidy the cost implications are explained in each option.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no other legal implications directly arising from this report.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

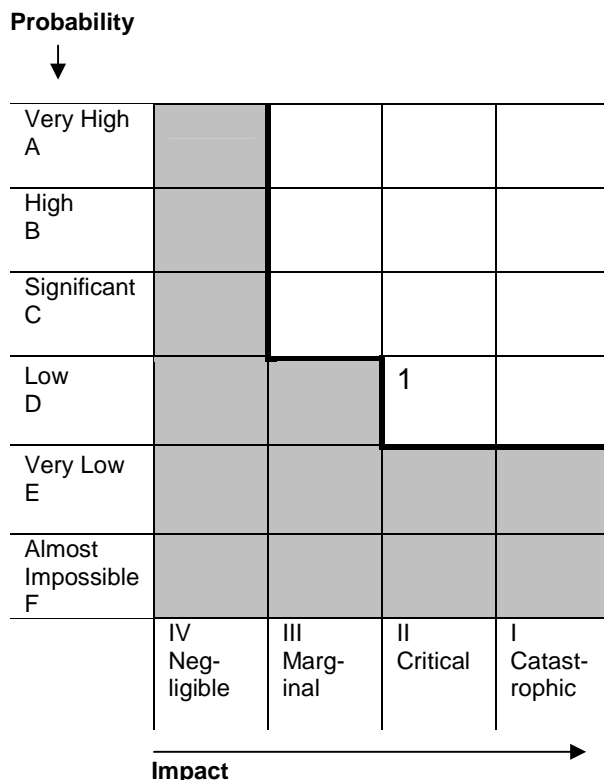
7.1 There are no direct links to community safety arising from this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 An initial equalities impact assessment has been completed and the Council's Equalities Group will assess this.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 The risks are considered in the table below:



Risk No.	Description
1	No parking restrictions mean on-going traffic congestion
2	
3	
4	

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no climate change issues directly arising from this report. However introducing such a scheme may encourage more use of public transport.

11.0 CONSULTATIONS

11.1 The issue to act regarding illegal parking was originally raised by TFEC. As in section 3 a full robust consultation has taken place and a formal position statement has been received from TFEC (Appendix D). A total of 302 surveys were sent out and 163 questionnaires were returned.

11.2 Two public meetings were held on 27th July 2010 and 10th August 2010. The feedback from those meetings was split as to whether or not residents would be happy paying for permits. Additionally everyone present commented that there is a problem with non residents parking in the housing allocated car parking spaces.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 Craven and Newport Wards are affected by this report.

Contact Officers: Ronan Browne, Richard Pearson, Sam Spencer

Date: 04 January 2011

Appendices: Appendix A - Permit Charging Options
Appendix B – Location of Car Parking Spaces
Appendix C – Results of Car parking Consultation
Appendix D – Formal Response from TFEC

Background Papers: Minutes of Resident Meetings at Town Centre
Minutes of TFEC Meetings

Reference: X: Committees/CSA/2011/25-1-11/Council Housing Car Parking