

Report to: **Hub Committee**

Date: **16 July 2019**

Title: **Car Parking Order amendments – electrical charging and additional parking in Okehampton**

Portfolio Area: **Environment Services (Cllr Terry Pearce)**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: **Consideration by Council on 17 September 2019**

Author: **Cathy Aubertin** Role: **Head of Environment Services Practice**

Contact: Cathy.Aubertin@swdevon.gov.uk

Recommendations: That Hub Committee RECOMMEND to Council:

1. that three areas in Okehampton are added to the Off-Street Parking Places Order, so that the land may be protected for the future and so that enforcement may be undertaken.
2. that the Off-Street Parking Places Order be amended to include reference to Electric Charging Points, to enable future provision and enforcement.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The report makes recommendations in respect of adding three areas of Borough Council owned land in Okehampton to the Off-Street Parking Places Order.
- 1.2 It also recommends that the Order be updated to allow for the future provision of Electric Charging Points, and to allow enforcement of the same.
- 1.3 The recommendations will enable the Council to continue to manage off-street parking in an efficient and effective manner, in line with the Council priority.
- 1.4 Not adding these updates to the Off-Street Parking Places Order will mean that enforcement will not be possible in respect of the additional parking areas and in respect of Electric Charging Point parking bays.

2. Background

Additional Parking in Okehampton

- 2.1 There are three areas of land in Okehampton where, currently, parking takes place, usually by local residents. Please see Appendix A which shows the locations, but they would be named in the Order as:
 - i. North Road
 - ii. Rear of Northfield Road
 - iii. Neville Road.
- 2.2 The area at the rear of Northfield Road has been used informally for car parking largely by local residents. There have also been issues in this area with occasional flytipping and abandoned vehicles. Previous attempts to restrict use of this area have failed largely due to being unable to provide parking enforcement.
- 2.3 Residents of North Road have complained that unrestricted parking on the road has caused obstructions which has resulted in emergency services not obtaining access. It is therefore proposed that parking is restricted to east side (opposite side of the current houses) of North Road.
- 2.4 These three parcels of land form part of the wider area known as Wonnacotts Meadow which has been identified in the forward plan as a site suitable for redevelopment and plans are being drawn up for a scheme to be delivered in 2020-2021. This is likely to require the adoption of North Road and Neville Road and the development of the site to the rear of Northfield Road.
- 2.5 In order to protect the Council's interest in these areas, it is recommended that they be added to the Parking Order and that permits be issued to residents who live adjacent to these parking areas only to allow them to continue parking there for the current time.
- 2.6 Permits would be issued on an annual basis at a cost of £40 per permit per annum, to residents who live in the neighbouring streets only. The permits will be limited in number due to the size of the parking areas.
- 2.7 Conditions for use of the permits would include that the right to park is limited to the period of the licence. This will mean that, in the event of redevelopment (as proposed for Wonnacott Meadows), the Council will have the ability to withdraw this right.
- 2.8 Motorists who park in these areas but who don't live in the neighbouring streets are likely to be impacted by this action. However, on- and off-street parking in Okehampton is available for these motorists to move their vehicle to.

Electric Charging Points

- 2.9 It is anticipated that the Council will receive funding in the next couple of years to install Electric Charging Points (ECPs) in off-street car parks.
- 2.10 To ensure that these are not abused once they are in place, it is recommended that the facility be added to the Parking Order, so that enforcement may be undertaken in response to any such abuse, and to encourage responsible use.

3. Outcomes/outputs

3.1 All amendments to the Off-Street Parking Places Order must be consulted on and, following consideration of these recommendations by the Council, a 21-day public consultation exercise would be undertaken. Should a large number of objections be received in respect of either recommendation, the matter will be referred back to Hub Committee for further consideration.

3.2 In respect of ECP bays, it is recommended that the following wording be included in the Parking Order –

“no parking in designated electric vehicle charging bays unless the vehicle is an electric vehicle, and the vehicle is connected to the electric vehicle charging point and is being charged.”

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 If the Parking Order is not amended to reflect the new parking areas and to reflect the future provision of ECP bays, the Council will not be able to enforce in respect of these issues.
- 4.2 Furthermore, the addition of the parking areas in Okehampton to the Order will ensure that the land is protected from claims of permissive rights.
- 4.3 Ward Members have been consulted in respect of the Okehampton parking areas and are supportive of this approach.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 That the proposed amendments to the Off-Street Parking Places Order proceed in accordance with the recommendation, and following a 21-day public consultation exercise.
- 5.2 These amendments will ensure that we continue to manage parking effectively and that the Council protects its land from adverse possession claims.

- 5.3 Should a large number of objections be received, the matter will be referred back to Hub Committee for further consideration.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance		<p>The Council has power to provide off-street parking under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).</p> <p>The Council has the power to deal with the provision, management and control of car parks.</p> <p>The Council has the powers to provide this service under the General Powers of Competence in the Localism Act 2011.</p>
Financial implications to include reference to value for money		<p>The cost of undertaking a public consultation will be in the region of £500 and may be funded by the Car Parking budget.</p> <p>An additional cost of approximately £500 would be incurred for signage at the three Okehampton locations, and this may also be funded by the Car Parking budget.</p>
Risk		<p>There may be risk that motorists who aren't local to be neighbouring streets in Okehampton would object to the proposed amendment. If a significant number of objections are received, the matter would be referred back to the Hub Committee for further consideration. There is on- and off-street parking in Okehampton to accommodate such motorists.</p>
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Council - delivering efficient and effective services.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		No implications.
Safeguarding		No implications.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		No potential positive or negative impact on crime and disorder reduction.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing		No implications.
Other implications		None.

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A – plan of proposed parking areas in Okehampton.

Background Papers:

None.

Approval and clearance of report

Process checklist	Completed
Portfolio Holder briefed/sign off	Yes/No
SLT Rep briefed/sign off	Yes/No
Relevant Heads of Practice sign off (draft)	Yes/No
Data protection issues considered	Yes/No
Accessibility checked	Yes/No