

At a Meeting of the **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kilworthy Park, Drake Road, **TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY** the **28th** day of **OCTOBER 2014** at **2.00 pm**.

Present:

Cllr R F D Sampson – Chairman
Cllr K Ball – Vice-Chairman
Cllr M J R Benson Cllr K A Clish-Green
Cllr D Cloke Cllr C Hall
Cllr N Morgan Cllr M E Morse
Cllr D E Moyse Cllr R J Oxborough

Head of Planning, Economy & Communities
Street Scene Manager
Natural Environment & Recreation Manager
Leisure Contracts Officer
Committee & Ombudsman Link Officer

In attendance:

Cllr W G Cann OBE Cllr D Horn
Cllr J Moody Cllr R Musgrave
Cllr T Pearce

CS 8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr D Cloke – Minute No CS 11 – Proposal to introduce residents' parking permit – Personal – Interest in St Peter's School

Cllr R J Oxborough – Minute No CS 10 – Introduction of experimental Pay & Display Charges in long stay car parks in Okehampton and Tavistock – Personal – Member of the Tavistock Chamber of Commerce.

***CS 9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th June 2014, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

***CS 10 INTRODUCTION OF EXPERIMENTAL PAY & DISPLAY CHARGES IN LONG-STAY CAR PARKS IN OKEHAMPTON AND TAVISTOCK**

The Street Scene Manager presented a report (page 6 to the Agenda) asking the Committee to make a recommendation to Council that a standard all-day charge be introduced into the Council's long-stay car parks in both Okehampton and Tavistock for an experimental period. Arising from a recent meeting of the Car Parking Strategy Group, a proposal had come forward that a standard all-day charge of £2.00 be introduced into the Council's long stay car parks for an experimental period. This all day charge would replace the current time limited parking charges.

The introduction of a standard all-day charge for an experimental period would enable the Council to see if such a charge increased usage of the car parks and whether it contributed to an increase in foot fall in the two towns. The experiment would last for up to twelve months and would be monitored on a quarterly basis.

Arising from the discussion, concern was expressed about the efficacy of the proposal and that whilst the proposal may have originated from the Car Parking Strategy Group there was no evidence that any form of consultation had taken place. The Committee was concerned that there was no evidence in support of the recommended all day parking fee of £2.00; that there was no suggestion of a half day parking fee and that there was no statistical evidence to show the effect on the Council's car parking income the recently introduced reduction in season tickets fees had made. Equally there was no statistical evidence presented to show how current car parking income compared with previous years' income and how the proposed all day fee of £2.00 may affect this.

In recognition of the Committee's concerns, it was moved by Cllr Oxborough, seconded by Cllr Benson, and **RESOLVED** accordingly that the proposal be returned to the Car Parking Strategy Group and for that Group to present a fully researched and reasoned report to a future meeting of the Committee and for that report to be presented by the Chairman of the Car Parking Strategy Group. The Committee further requested that it be advised of the full membership of the Car Parking Strategy Group.

***CS 11 PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A RESIDENTS' PARKING PERMIT**

The Street Scene Manager presented a report (page 11 to the Agenda) proposing the introduction of a time limited Residents' Parking Permit for use in the Council's long stay car parks. In addition, it was also being proposed to review the free school parking permit scheme to enable the service to be managed through a reasonable charging mechanism.

Arising from a recent meeting of the Car Parking Strategy Group, a proposal had come forward that residents be offered a car parking permit for the Council's long stay car parks that would allow parking from 3.00 pm to 10.00 am each day. It was further proposed that such a permit would cost £50.00 per annum.

The introduction of such a permit would also serve to replace the current scheme of issuing free school parking permits to parents on request of local primary schools which allowed free parking for half an hour at school times. Currently, 1,010 permits had been issued for the academic year and these enabled parents to make use of the long stay car parks when taking and collecting children from school.

The Officer reported that with Council's consent, the proposed new scheme could be operational by Christmas 2014.

Arising from the publication of the report, Committee Members had received correspondence from members of the public and a certain amount of media interest had also been engendered. During the ensuing discussion a number of concerns were raised the answers to which the Committee considered necessary to help in formulating a decision.

Cllr Clish-Green reported that the scheme to give parents of children attending St Rumon's School (up to 7 years of age) concessionary parking tickets arose from the revision of the principal roads through Tavistock where Dolvin Road became a main artery carrying the A386 road which connected north and south Devon. The increase in traffic from this led to the establishment of a manned pedestrian crossing and the issue of the parking permits. Cllr Clish-Green asked when and why was the scheme escalated to other primary schools within the Borough?

In noting that this proposal had arisen from the Car Parking Strategy Group, the Committee sought clarification on the reasoning giving rise to the proposal and how the annual cost had been decided upon. The Committee also requested information on the criteria for schools seeking permits and how their use and retention was audited.

The Committee was further concerned that the participating schools had not been consulted on the proposal and their views sought on the effect withdrawal of the tickets might have.

It was moved by Cllr Clish-Green, seconded by Cllr Benson, and **RESOLVED** accordingly that, for the time being, the free school parking permit scheme continues pending a full and detailed review of the scheme and its usage and that any proposed changes to the current scheme, including the introduction of a proposed residents' parking permit, be fully consulted upon with a detailed report being presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

***CS 12 LEISURE CENTRE CONTRACT MONITORING**

Arising from Minute No CS 4 – 2014/2015, the Natural Environment & Recreation Manager and the Leisure Contracts Officer presented a joint report (page 16 to the Agenda) on the current performance and key issues of the leisure centre management arrangements with Leisure in The Community (LiTC) and 1Life, formally known as Leisure Connection. Use of both leisure centres had continued to grow with Meadowlands swimming visits up by 5,714, with the swim school leading the way. There were now 487 swim memberships and 7 primary schools made use of the centre – Mount Kelly Preparatory, and Bere Alston, Tavistock, Princetown, Bickleigh Down, Lamerton and St Peter's Primary Schools.

Visits to the Parklands Leisure Centre had increased by 8,191, with overall Centre membership standing at a record high of 1,083. Eight schools attended the Centre – Okehampton, South Tawton, Hatherleigh, Exbourne, Lydford, Winkleigh, Halwill and Northlew Primary Schools.

Community based activities continued at both Centres and a GP Referral Scheme operated at Parklands and currently attracted 60 participants.

Minor repairs and maintenance works were being carried out at both Centres and customer feedback was more positive than negative. The

Committee also noted that 1Life's marketing and staffing initiatives were proving beneficial.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report be welcomed and noted.

(The Meeting terminated at 3.56 pm.)

Dated this 20th January 2015

Chairman