

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Community Services</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> January 2015</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Consideration of objections received in respect of coach parking in Mill Road car park, Okehampton</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Street Scene Manager</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED</b>	<b>All Okehampton wards</b>

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**Summary of report:**

This report considers the response to the public consultation in respect of the proposal to formalise coach parking in Mill Road car park, Okehampton.

**Financial implications:**

If the coach parking is confirmed, there will be a cost to advertise the implementation of the amendment to the Off-Street Parking Places Order of approximately £600.

Should the coach parking not be confirmed, it will be necessary to undertake remedial works in Mill Road car park, at a cost of approximately £200.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that this Committee resolves to consider the objections received in response to the public consultation in respect of the proposed amendment to the Borough Council's Off-Street Parking Places Order for the provision of two coach parking bays in Mill Road car park and, in the light of those objections, decides whether or not to provide that coach parking.

It is further recommended that should this Committee resolve that coach parking should be provided in the Mill Road car park then Council be requested to provide that coach parking free of charge to the user having firstly taken account of the views expressed in the public consultation.

It is further recommended that, should the recommendation to retain the two coach parking bays be resolved, the amendment to the Off-Street Parking Places Order be confirmed and advertised as such.

**Officer contact:**

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Chamber of Trade have been calling for coach parking in the town for over 15 years, in order to increase footfall in the town and help boost the local economy, but the Borough Council has been unable to respond because it had no suitable land available.
- 1.2 However, following the reduction in the use of car parks, coupled with the demolition of the public toilets in Mill Road car park, space became available that could be suitable for coach parking.
- 1.3 Initial work was undertaken in early 2014 in order to provide coach parking for this last year's main holiday season. This was something the Town Council was keen to see happen.
- 1.4 A Council engineer drew up some preliminary plans, which showed that, although coach parking could be provided in Mill Road car park, the turning circle in the car park was tight and the 'swing' at the entrance to the car park was limited by vehicles being parked at the entrance, on land which is privately owned.
- 1.5 Therefore, prior to any further steps being taken, a local coach company was contacted and they kindly helped by driving a coach into the car park in order to 'test' the proposed layout. As a result it was demonstrated that the proposed layout was suitable for parking two coaches.
- 1.6 In addition, Dartmoor Windows, a business located at the entrance to the car park, and who owns the land at the entrance, were approached and asked if they would consider parking their vehicles in Mill Road car park, using permits provided by the Borough Council. They agreed and, as a result, permits have been issued free of charge. This has eliminated the problem of vehicles being parked at the entrance, which prevented coaches from being able to enter the car park.
- 1.7 Because the town had waited for coach parking for so long, it was agreed that the initial works would be carried out, so that the town was able to benefit from the provision of coach parking for the summer 2014 holiday season.

## 2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Following a public consultation undertaken in order to make a proposed amendment to the Off-Street Parking Places Order to reflect the provision of coach parking, a petition objecting to this provision has been received, together with two further e-mails and two letters of objection.
- 2.2 The petition states:  
**"Whilst we recognise the need for a coach park and the opportunities that a coach park will bring to the town, we the undersigned ask that the current site of the Mill Road car park be reassessed as there are fears over safety at the site and also access and we therefore consider that it is not fit for purpose.**

**The residents whose signatures appear below request as a matter of urgency that consultation with the community takes place with plans to identify a new site in order to provide a safe and secure coach park for the town as soon as possible."**

- 2.3 The petition has 104 signatures but does not satisfy Council Procedure Rule 21 (Public deputations, petitions, questions at Council meetings), in order to be a valid petition. However, it has been considered as a representation to the public consultation together with the other responses above.
- 2.4 The petition, together with other e-mails and letters of objection, is available for Members to view in the Street Scene office (room F61) and will be circulated at the Committee meeting.

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 Despite the concern of 104 residents, neither Devon County Council nor any other formal consultee has raised concerns in respect of the implementation of coach parking. Furthermore, the Borough Council does not own any other land, and officers are not aware of any other land available to lease, that would be more suitable for coach parking.
- 3.2 There have been no reports of accidents in respect of the movement of coaches in, out or around Mill Road car park since the parking became available, and a risk assessment has raised no major concerns, although monitoring to ensure no further signage is required is a mitigating action arising from the assessment. The risk assessment is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.3 It is, therefore, proposed that the coach parking be formalised and that the Off-Street Parking Places Order be amended accordingly.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council has power to provide off-street parking under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).
- 4.2 The Council has the power to deal with the provision, management and control of car parks.
- 4.3 Council has the powers to provide this service under the General Powers of Competence in the Localism Act 2011.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The cost of the work undertaken was £1,200, although some of this will be met through Devon County Councillors' Locality Funds. Each County Councillor has an allocation of funds to enable them to respond to local needs in their divisions, supporting projects or activities that benefit the communities they represent. The remainder will be met by the service budget.

5.2 If the coach parking is confirmed, there will be a cost to advertise the implementation of the amendment to the Off-Street Parking Places Order of approximately £600.

5.3 Should the coach parking not be confirmed, it will be necessary to undertake remedial works in Mill Road car park, at a cost of approximately £200.

## 6. RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

<b>Corporate priorities engaged:</b>	Community well-being; Access to services; Towards excellence; Customer first
<b>Statutory powers:</b>	As stated in paragraph 3
<b>Considerations of equality and human rights:</b>	An equality impact assessment has been carried out and, as a result, no further actions are required.
<b>Biodiversity considerations:</b>	None
<b>Sustainability considerations:</b>	None
<b>Crime and disorder implications:</b>	None
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>Appendices attached:</b>	Appendix 1 – Risk Assessment

## STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Amendment to car park layout	Because work to accommodate coaches in the car park has already been undertaken, the Council may be criticised for this as it was completed in advance of the amendment to the Off-Street Parking Places Order	3	1	3	↓	Should the proposal to provide coach parking not proceed, it will be necessary to revert to the previous layout. However, the cost of this will be kept to a minimum.	C Aubertin

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑