

# **Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Environment (including Transport) Thursday, 12 June 2014**

## **ADDENDA**

### **2. Questions from County Councillors**

Councillor Nick Hards

Would the Cabinet Member for the Environment please supply an update on the progress with regard to the civil enforcement of parking across the county? I am particularly interested in South Oxfordshire but would also appreciate having this information for Cherwell, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire Districts.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Environment

West Oxfordshire adopted Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) in 2010. CPE requires both on street and off street parking to be included and therefore the County are required to work with the District Councils to implement a solution. South Oxfordshire have recently expressed a strong interest in also adopting Civil Parking Enforcement and Vale of White Horse and Cherwell District councils have subsequently expressed an informal interest in pursuing CPE depending on a proposal demonstrating that there is a business case to do so. The Council's previous modelling of CPE has demonstrated that it would make a significant loss. WODC currently report a loss of approximately £250k per year which would substantiate the accuracy of previous modelling. There would be a significant saving in implementing and operating CPE across all 3 districts at the same time and therefore the Council officers from each authority are working closely to develop a proposal to bring to each authorities respective Cabinets later this year. The process for implementing CPE is quite lengthy and as such would take approximately 9-12 months following endorsement from each authority to formally introduce enforcement.

Councillor Nick Hards

Is Oxfordshire County Council willing to consider residents' parking schemes in South Oxfordshire? In the absence of a scheme, my predecessor arranged for a section of Station Road Didcot to be made No Entry Except for Access, but this arrangement is proving ineffective and is causing conflict, with residents being abused by people who flout the restriction and insist on parking all day while they go to work.

Reply from the Cabinet Member for Environment

The County has previously stated that it would not seek to extend residents' parking schemes to areas without Civil Parking Enforcement as without regular enforcement they typically prove to be ineffective and do not meet the expectations of householders. Parking Enforcement is understandably not a high priority for the police who currently enforce within South Oxfordshire.

The exception has been areas close to Town Centres where very small schemes have been implemented to manage on street, limited time, pay & display parking to support the retail centres for which residents can purchase a permit. The Council has adopted limited powers to enforce these pay & display zones. Such schemes tend to only be effective where a turnover of parking takes place to balance the needs of residents and other parking and is therefore unlikely to be suited to the situation that Cllr Hards refers.

The County would therefore consider residents' parking zones following implementation of CPE, but as is the case in Oxford would expect such schemes to be self-financing.

### 3. Petitions and Public Address

<i>Name</i>	<i>Item</i>
City Councillor M Altaf-Khan	4. Proposed Amendments to Headington Central CPZ
David Moyes (Charlbury Resident) Debbie Reeves (Charlbury Resident)	) 5. Proposed Disabled Persons ) Parking Places – West Oxfordshire

### 5. Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Places - West Oxfordshire

Additional Representations

Amanda Epps, Charlbury Resident

I write regarding the proposal for 2 disabled bays in Charlbury near the Coop store and the Pharmacy.

I was disappointed and distressed to find that there were objections to this proposal from residents of Charlbury who have so little empathy and understanding of the struggles those who hold Blue Badges (to allow disabled parking) face in trying to lead as normal a life as possible.

Many like myself appear to be able bodied as we do not use crutches or white sticks

but appearances are deceptive. I have 5 chronic health conditions, 4 of which are potentially life threatening. I am often unable to leave my home for over a week at times and cannot use public transport especially the trains following the doubling of the Cotswold line. I get breathless walking a short distance and am unable to carry heavy shopping to the disabled bays in the Spendlove car park at the rear of the Coop. If I lived in Long Hanborough or Chipping Norton there are disabled bays near the entrance to their stores but not here.

I have had to walk some distance on a cold winter's night when I struggled for breath and was exhausted when I reached the Pharmacy. I had been to see the doctor and needed to have my prescription dispensed urgently. There were 5 cars parked illegally on the double yellow lines near the Pharmacy.

I am only one among many in a similar situation in this community yet it seems there are some among us who would seek to make us lose our independence just for their convenience. I believe the argument about shoppers being displaced is a spurious one, as they would simply use the car park at the rear of the Coop in which there are designated one hour bays for shoppers. Providing for our needs at the entrance would enable WODC to provide more similar short- term spaces in the car park. I would support the removal of the bay on the Playing Close as it is rarely used.

I am just one of many in Charlbury who have restricted mobility and am just pleading for something which would enhance our daily lives. Please support this proposal.

County Councillor Rodney Rose (Charlbury & Wychwood)

I fully support these proposals and ask that my views are reported to the Cabinet Member for Environment's Delegated Decisions meeting which I regret I am not able to attend.