

## **TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on Monday, 16 January 2017 at 2pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

### **Present**

Councillor Stuart Potter (in the Chair)  
Steve Hastings  
Suzy Horton  
Frank Jonas

#### **34. Apologies for Absence. (AI 1)**

Councillor Tom Wood sent his apologies for absence and Councillor Suzy Horton deputised for him.

#### **35. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)**

No interests were declared.

#### **36. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. (AI 3)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

#### **37. \*Review of general parking issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering alternative strategies. (AI 4)**

##### Deputations

Tony Davenport explained about the flexible controlled parking schemes in operation in some parts of London to deter commuters from parking in residential streets all day. A screen print out giving details of the all day and the one hour zones was circulated to members and is attached to the minutes.

Patricia Russell explained that she felt drastic measures were required as the roads could not cope with the current amount of traffic. In Paulsgrove, dangerous and illegal parking has been a problem for over ten years but there are not enough Parking Attendants to deal with this.

Mr Baynes suggested that the council should install clear maps directing people on how to get from Portsmouth & Railway Station to the seafront on foot. More fingerposts are required along this route and between other key destinations in the city. The benefits of cycling or travelling by taxi should also be publicised. Residents do not realise that it is cheaper to use taxis regularly than to purchase and run a car.

Michael Robinson, Parking Operations Manager explained that he and his team of 75 officers are responsible for the following areas:

- The management of all council paid for car parks.
- The enforcement of on and off street parking.

- Issuing Penalty Charge Notices.
- Parking appeals and debt collection.
- Blue Badge scheme administration.
- Parking Permits.
- Parking suspensions.
- Parking for special events.
- Investigating and removal of abandoned and untaxed vehicles.
- Criminal investigations.

The priorities for enforcement are:

1. Road safety, particularly for vulnerable people e.g. outside schools. National statistics show that most accidents involving children occur when they cross the road from between parked cars.
2. Revenue protection. The income surplus gained from car parks alleviates the burden on the tax payer.
3. Resident Parking Zones,
4. Dropped kerbs
5. Loading bays.

The challenges the team faces include a lack of kerb space especially in residential areas and a continuing increase in the number of cars registered to addresses in Portsmouth. From 2007 and 2017, there was an average increase of 9%. The PO6 area saw the biggest rise 31% and PO3 the lowest, 5%.

A private members bill is currently going through Parliament to ban parking on the pavement. In some areas of Portsmouth this has become accepted practice.

The Parking Service receives the most complaints about illegal parking at bus stops, near ATMs and convenience shops.

Two cameras have been introduced to deal with illegal parking on zig-zag markings outside schools. The Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) are subject to more abuse and assaults when carrying out their duties outside schools than anywhere else in the city.

There is currently shortage of four CEOs.

Some people have unrealistic expectations of the Parking Service in terms of enforcement.

In response to questions from members, he explained that the weight limit in residents' parking zones is 3.5 tons and outside of these areas it applies to driving not just parking.

Tanya Hayes, Director of Maintenance, Mountjoy explained that:

- Mountjoy provides a reactive building and maintenance service for 8,000 buildings and this includes an out of hours' emergency service.
- 160 engineers work on Portsea Island and less than 10% live on the island. This means that a small number park overnight in the city.

- Staff provide the tools and use their vans to commute to work.
- Mountjoy attends the council's quarterly meetings with contractors.
- In the last two years, there have been two out of hours' complaints about parking.
- Some of the fleet vehicles are hybrid.
- A review of the size of all the vehicles has been carried out and all are now the appropriate size and so require the least possible space when parking.
- All drivers are required to complete the Blue Lamp driving course.
- There are speed restrictions for all vehicles and on board tracking.
- Often drivers are not able to park outside or near to the properties that they are visiting and sometimes must carry their tools a considerable distance.

In response to a question, she explained that approximately 16 company vehicles are left overnight in the city.

Fred Jones, Head of Cities, Uber for UK and Ireland read out the evidence he had prepared and that is attached to the minutes.

In response to questions he explained that none of the fleet at the moment are electric cars nor are they accessible for wheelchairs. He gave his reasons for not having electric cars: the cars at the developmental stage; the charging infrastructure in the city needs to be improved; it is more expensive to obtain a taxi licence and to run an electric car.

#### Actions

The following information will be sent to the panel:

- DVLA information on car ownership numbers from 2007 and 2017
- The Parking Service Annual Report 2015/16.

**Post meeting note:** the latter can be found here:

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/par-parking-service--annual-report--2015-16.pdf>

The meeting concluded at 2:50pm

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Councillor Stuart Potter  
Chair