

TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on Friday, 22 June 2018 at 3.00 pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Simon Boshier (in the Chair)

Councillors Yahiya Chowdhury
 Hugh Mason
 Tom Wood

1. Apologies for Absence. (AI 1)

Councillors Ellcome and Fazackarley sent their apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 September 2017 be noted.

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

Mr Jerry Brown included the following points in his deputation:

The council does not have a list of taxis that meet the criteria for wheelchair users. Without such a list, a taxi driver can refuse to take a wheelchair user. He suggested that the Licensing Department be asked to maintain a list.

There are too many cars for the number of parking spaces.

He put forward the following possible solutions:

- Build a large multi-storey car park in Exmouth Road where the garages are and provide the same or bigger spaces in that building to the current garage occupants without charge.
- Make all of Portsmouth Residents Parking Zones but with different enforcement times based on local needs (i.e. close to railway, no parking for 2 hrs 11am-1pm, prevents commuter traffic). Allow residents to park in their 'home' RPZ as much as they like and receive 2 hrs free anywhere else in the city.

- All car owners seeking permits must be registered in Portsmouth to a household that incurs council tax. Those that do not meet this criteria could apply for a permit for £5,000.
- Make the first RPZ permit low cost or free.
- Extend the Park and Ride and allow registered residents to park their cars there for a fixed monthly fee (or a very low daily amount that automatically reverts to a lower weekly fee if there a week, etc), with a small discount for those attending full time education. Spend the additional income generated from RPZ enforcement on additional bus services and driving down the cost of bus travel.
- Require Ensign/COLAS to spend a proportion of the roads budget on providing safer cycling.
- Lobby the government for more frequent and cheaper train travel for local commuters.
- Appoint a Cabinet Member for Parking.
- Allow local commercial vehicle owners to park for free between 18:00 and 07:00 on the seafront and in council-run car parks.
- Permit and encourage free parking for all cars on the seafront between 18:00 and 08:00 all year round.
- Require the bigger commercial car parks (e.g. B&Q, Ocean Park) to allow commercial vehicle parking between 20:00 and 06:00 on remoter parts of the car parks.
- Change the times of on-street parking charges so as to allow free overnight parking between 20:00 and 08:00.
- Require the University Service to the Hayling Ferry to be made available to the public when not running at capacity.
- Require the bus companies that halt at Ferry Road to go the extra 800 metres and stop at the Ferry.
- Encourage the university to build a high-capacity multi-story car park on the site behind the Registry Office that can be used by the university during daytime but provide overspill (paid) parking for Gunwharf Quays and (free) for local (registered) residents between 18:00 and 08:00.
- Build a second Park and Ride facility on the Sainsburys supermarket site at the top of Commercial Road. Ensure it can be converted to multi-storey when needed.
- Provide paid parking permits for works vehicles working in the city.

Mark Thewlis, Market Research Officer introduced the survey results report that had been circulated with the agenda and in response to questions from the panel clarified

The use of the statistics in figure 3 on page 9 of the report (p15 of the agenda pack). The footnote states that 'the research outputs are not official statistics on the population. Rather they are published as outputs from research into an Administrative Data Census approach. These outputs must not be reproduced without this disclaimer and warning note, and should not be used for policy- or decision-making.'

The advice given was that these statistics could be used as this scrutiny panel makes recommendations rather than decisions.

Page 16, figure 4 shows that 36% of responding households own two cars.

Councillor Lynne Stagg, Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation asked the panel to note that:

The results of the survey show that 53% of households who responded think they should be entitled to two parking permits. It is important that residents realise that there is insufficient parking space in the city and show them that there is no need to have two cars per household.

She will meet with First Bus shortly to discuss the need for more buses and the possibility of extending some routes. The number 15 bus route from The Hard to the City Centre was recently removed, so there should be sufficient leeway in the timetable to collect passengers at the Hayling Island ferry.

It is important that the number of vehicles in the city be reduced and the bus service improved to pick up the slack.

Some residents do not have a bus stop near their homes or going to the destinations that they want to go to.

Schools have indicated that they would be reluctant to open up their car parks to general parking in the evenings and weekends because of potential fuel links and vandalism. Milton Cross School has shown some good initiative in opening up their carpark on match days.

Commercial vehicle owners do not want to have to walk or take the bus in order to collect their vehicle from a designated car park.

Members discussed the following issues:

Schools opening up their car parks overnight

- Some schools had previously expressed concerns regarding opening up their car parks overnight e.g. security, vandalism and removing vehicles that stay longer than permitted.
- Each school would have its own views.

Different enforcement times for different areas.

Bus Services.

- The viability of extending a bus route to pick up passengers from the Hayling Ferry should be explored. However, it was reported that the bus company had requested more than £50,000 a year because of the knock-on effect this would have on their schedule.
- More should be done to improve public transport.
- Increasing bus and cycling might not necessarily reduce parking problems as people would just leave their cars at home.

- Two bus routes are subsidised by the council. It would be very expensive to subsidise more or to extend free passes to other user groups.
- If a council issued free bus pass is used on a subsidised route, the taxpayer would effectively pay twice.
- The numbers of buses was increased from 15 to 18 in order to maintain the service due to the increased volume of traffic on Portsea Island.

Parking on supermarket sites

Examples were given of some examples of supermarkets that have introduced tighter restrictions on parking for longer than 2 hours or overnight.

Commercial Vehicle Parking

- Mountjoy used to park vehicles in a supermarket in Drayton until the restrictions were introduced.
- Members understood the concerns of companies and suggested that a meeting could be set up with them to discuss how the council could assist them with finding a way to reduce the number of their vehicles that need to be parked in residential areas overnight.
- The perception of the issue might be disproportional to the reality as the vehicles are easily identifiable.
- From the evidence given to the panel at earlier meetings, it seems that significant steps had been taken to reduce the number of vehicles that are parked overnight on residential roads.

Residents Parking Zones

- Introducing a city-wide parking zone would not give residents the opportunity to decide if they want one in their own area. It is important to note that all areas are different.
- Current parking zones could be reviewed with particular regard to assessing their impact on neighbouring areas.

Students

- In response to questions from the panel, Pam Turton, Assistant Director Transport, Environment & Business Support explained that
- The university had informed this panel that students were encouraged not to bring their cars to the city.
- To be eligible for a parking permit, your car must be registered at your Portsmouth address.
- A student halls of residence is classed as being one property regardless of the number of bedrooms. Therefore only two permits can be issued for its residents.

Members noted that they had received anecdotal evidence regarding displacement issues caused by students and their vehicles being left for long periods. As there is a growing population of students, the university should be encouraged to do more to deter them from bringing their cars to the city and to look into opening up more of their carparks to the general public. However, it is important that no one group is singled out arbitrarily to try to resolve parking problems.

Parking for New Developments

Many people wrongly believe that the council can refuse planning permission if adequate parking is not included in a planning application.

Dropped Kerbs

When residents have a dropped kerb installed outside their property, a long white line is painted outside. Often this line is as long as the house and so the Car to off road. Pay. White line in front of property and private parking space for second vehicle. As this line is as big as the property, the householder gains a second private parking space.

Other issues discussed included locating sites for multi-storey car parks on private land and reviewing car parks that are under-used with a view to making them more attractive.

Actions.

It was agreed that the following information be brought to a future meeting:

- Number of parking permits produced.
- Details of meetings held with companies regarding parking in residential roads.
- The number of students who have cars.
- The criteria used by Colas to assess off-street parking applications.

Members were asked to send further comments and suggestions to the Chair. The comments regarding taxi use for wheelchair users will be raised with the Licensing Department.

The meeting concluded at 4.35 pm.

Councillor Simon Boshier
Chair