

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Traffic and Transportation Committee

Date of meeting: 5 February 2015

Subject: Farlington Playing Fields Car Park (TRO 78/2014)

Report by: Head of Transport and Environment

Wards affected: Drayton & Farlington

Key decision: ~~Yes~~/No

Full Council decision: ~~Yes~~/No

1. Purpose of report

To consider the responses to the formal public consultation on proposals contained within this Traffic Regulation Order. There is a statutory requirement to take into consideration any comments from the public before determining whether to confirm or refuse an order whenever objections are received to advertised proposals.

See [Page 4](#) for a copy of the public notice detailing the proposal

See [Page 5](#) for the public consultation responses summary

2. Recommendation

That the Order is approved as advertised (no changes).

3. Background

To facilitate improvement and maintenance of the parking provision and to support wherever possible the Council's strategic sustainable transport objectives. Pay & Display facilities are regularly reviewed; they provide an opportunity for visitors to access public areas of the city via a good standard of parking place.

4. Reasons for recommendation

4.1 Where employers are unable to provide parking facilities for staff, those people travelling to work by car may use public parking areas. The car park at Farlington Playing Fields is owned by, and is the responsibility of, Portsmouth City Council. The Council incurs maintenance costs in keeping this car park fit for purpose and safe for users. Income from the proposed charges would help this to continue at a time when significant financial challenges face the organisation.

- 4.2 Under sustainable transport objectives, the Council has a duty to encourage people to consider alternative methods to being the single occupant of a car when commuting to and from a place of work. Often, alternative methods of commuting are not considered until a financial implication is involved.
- 4.3 Free public parking facilities are rare in towns and cities, and the majority of employees expect to pay parking fees (or for parking zones to be in place to limit non-residential parking) if choosing to drive to work. The proposed fee for Farlington Playing Fields car park at 50p per hour (£3 a day, or less with a season ticket), are below half the regular charge of £8 - £12 per day. See para 7.4 for proposed charges.
- 4.4 The comments received in response to the formal consultation of the proposals (Page 5) have been taken into consideration:

Summary response - 98 objections (inc. 84 signatures on a petition)
0 in favour of car park remaining as it is

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

This report has undergone a preliminary equality impact assessment and there are no equality issues arising from this report.

6. Legal Implications

Under powers contained in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 local authorities may provide off-street parking places and may by order make provisions as to the conditions on which it may be used and the charges to which it may be used, including the provision of Pay & Display facilities

7. Finance Comments

- 7.1 As a result of approving the order attached a net income will be generated by the charges levied on this car park.
- 7.2 The car park set up costs associated with implementing these changes amount to around £9,000 and will be funded by the income generated by the new charges.
- 7.3 The net income estimated to be generated by the charges at this car park will be used to make improvements to the car park in the first instance.
- 7.4 The table below sets out the proposed charges for the Farlington Playing Fields Car Park included season tickets.

	Per Hour	Per Month	Per 3 months	Per 6 Months	Per year
Charge	£0.50	£45	£126	£234	£432

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Signed by:
Head of Transport & Environment Service

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
12 emails, 2 letters, 1 petition	Transport Planning, 4 th floor, Civic Offices

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by:
Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation

Copy of public notice detailing the proposal under TRO 78/2014:

Dated: 27 November 2014

THE PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL (FARLINGTON PLAYING FIELDS) (PAY & DISPLAY: OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (NO.78) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Portsmouth City Council proposes to make the above Order under Sections 32 to 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect would be the provision of Pay & Display parking facilities as detailed below:

Persons wishing either to object to or support these proposals may do so by sending their representations in writing to Nikki Musson, Transport and Environment, Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Portsmouth PO1 2NE, or via email to **engineers@portsmouthcc.gov.uk** quoting ref: **TRO78/2014** by the **18 December 2014** stating the grounds of objection/support.

Under the provisions of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, any letters of representation that are received may be open to inspection by members of the public.

A) PARKING PLACE

<u>Name of Parking Place</u>	<u>Times of Operation of Parking Place</u>	<u>Charges / Permits</u>
1. Farlington playing fields (off Eastern Road, north of the Hilton Hotel)	Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm	Pay & Display: 50p per hour Season tickets available: 1 month / 3 months / 6 months / annual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per PCC policy, Disabled Badge holders would be exempt from the Pay & Display charges, provided the Blue Badge is clearly displayed in the windscreen of the vehicle during the stay. 		

REASONS FOR THE ORDER

To facilitate improvement and maintenance of the parking provision and to support wherever possible the Council's strategic sustainable transport objectives.

A copy of this notice and a plan may be examined at the Information Desk, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Portsmouth during normal office hours, and a copy of this Public Notice can be found on the City Council's website - search 'traffic regulation orders 2014'

SIMON MOON, Head of Transport and Environment
Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2NE

Summary of public consultation responses to TRO 78/2014

Support for Pay & Display in Farlington Playing Fields car park

None received.

Objections to Pay & Display in Farlington Playing Fields car park

Resident, Portsmouth

Farlington playing fields are one of the few remaining green areas in the city, and installing pay & display is the same as charging people to use this facility. The playing fields are not within walking distance and are surrounded by busy roads, meaning those using them for leisure activities will arrive by car.

This proposal is to make easy money by charging dog-walkers and local workers at the industrial estate, car sales, hotel, car showroom, service station etc. However, these people will go elsewhere or park in the residential areas and walk back. It does nothing for people who use the car park for car-sharing, except charge them for helping the environment. These people will also be forced into the residential areas, and residents there will complain about the extra cars and vans being parked outside their houses.

Employees at a company in Walton Road

A petition signed by 84 employees of one company has been signed and submitted "against car park fees".

Employee, Walton Road

Pay & Display will be a great inconvenience for me and many others, and works out at nearly £60 a month to park there - a lot of money on a small wage. There are no car parks nearby, making it difficult for me to get to work - it is not ideal to walk to work in the dark at 7am, as well as being next to a busy road. Co-workers and other people using the car park as a meeting place or to exercise dogs will be affected by the cost.

Resident, Portsmouth

This is a negative move, as dog-walkers, people doing their bit to keep fit and those involved in car shares to and from work will be penalised by this levy. It will simply result in people parking in the streets in and around the area, thereby congesting the roads or forcing more cars onto the road as car-sharing becomes unviable. The council is discouraging people from keeping active and reducing their carbon footprint by car-sharing.

Employee and car sharer, Walton Road

I share a car with 4 members, parking at Farlington car park, using 1 car to reduce pollution and the already-heavy congestion on the roads. To charge for parking at this site would render such car shares uneconomical and force more vehicles onto the roads. This would be a step backwards for the greener planet, and the public is constantly being reminded about the need to reduce our carbon footprint.

Objections to Pay & Display in Farlington Playing Fields car park

Resident, Portsmouth

The council is supposed to encourage fitness and health, which is normally achieved in the great outdoors such as playing fields. By forcing people to pay for the facilities is counter-productive and the extortionate fees is almost criminal.

During the week it is obvious the car park is used by people who car share, and a responsible council should encourage that - a charge will force people to drive individually and put more stress on the road system.

The local streets will become packed with cars and vans looking for alternative parking.

The maintenance of the current car park is very low and by charging the council would be accountable for the upgrade required to meet the minimum standard expected of this type of parking facility.

Reducing the wage bill paid to higher-earning councillors by 1% would probably cover the shortfall if the books need to be balanced.

Employee, Walton Road

I regularly use this car park as there is no other public parking in the area. This appears to be a money-making scheme to support public transport, which is way over-priced. Pay & Display on this site will promote illegal parking in the surrounding areas and extra hassle for local residents. Season tickets will only benefit every day users if a concession is offered, whereas people such as myself who car share only use the facility a couple of days a week will be at a major financial loss.

Employee, Walton Road

The only people who want Pay & Display here are the council as a nice income. The times of operation is once again a tax on working people. The council always make the easy decisions like spending millions on Somers Town community centre to make them look good.

Employee, Walton Road

- This is a stealth tax on working people and a cash cow opportunity for PCC, as the site is within an industrial estate whereby a high number of people park between 9am-5pm Mon-Fri. Dog walkers and Sunday league players won't have to pay at weekends, so this is clearly targeted at working people. We are simply trying to get to work and earn a living, whilst in a cost-of-living crisis
- There is no on-street parking available as an alternative to Pay & Display
- There is insufficient public transport available as an alternative to Pay & Display
- The car park's gravel, uneven surface requires very little maintenance. The recent filling-in of the pot holes is the only maintenance the car park has had for years. The car park does not have lighting / cctv / marked bays to maintain
- Charges will force people out of the car park and into other private car parks, causing problems and disputes for other land owners
- The demand on the car park is relatively low, rarely full up between 10am-4pm.

Restrictions are therefore not needed to control demand

Overall, Pay & Display is not suited to the use of this car park. Maintenance should come from other taxation, from the PCC transport budget for road repairs, as work required on this car park is low. Alternative restrictions should be considered.

Objections to Pay & Display in Farlington Playing Fields car park

Employee, Walton Road

I already spend enough money on fuel getting to and from work and with the additional cost of parking, I will no longer be able to work at my current place of work.

Employee, Walton Road

I work at the Triangle Industrial Estate and have not got a work car park permit, meaning I have no alternative but to use this gravel car park. The proposal means I would have to pay £100 a month just to be able to go to work each day and that truly is absurd. This is a bad idea for everyone who uses the gravel car park.

Employee, Walton Road

There are no services or facilities nearby for which one would need to park up. The petrol station and hotel have their own parking areas. The car park is however full up to capacity due to everyone using it who works in the industrial estate across the road. The waiting period for a space at work is currently 105 days. The Pay & Display will penalise hard working people - nearly £100 per month. How can we be expected to find that extra money for something we currently get free? Even with season tickets it won't come close to affordable. The car park is a glorified dirt track at best. If this comes in I will be forced to park in the nearest residential street, leaving me a 10-15 minute walk to and from work each day.

Employee, Eastern Road

To have to pay to park every day would certainly take a chunk out of my wages. I would consider a permit that gives local employees a discount however. There is no lighting and the surface is very uneven.

Resident, Portsmouth

All reasonable people want to encourage people to participate in sport, and we are constantly being told a significant number of the population is overweight. The proposed Pay & Display will deter many organisations / clubs from using the playing fields. The Council can always save money by reducing senior managers' posts.

Employee, Eastern Road

This is an excellent, well established, successful company currently employing over 280 people living in the local community. Remaining competitive and being able to attract staff is vital to our business but due to restricted space on site many rely on the existing parking facilities at Farlington Playing Fields. Pay & Display will adversely affect both our existing employees and our ability to attract and retain staff, many of whom will be unable to travel to work due to additional costs incurred. We are surrounded by other businesses whose staff also use the Farlington car park. There is a concern that those who cannot pay the charges will park on side streets around Farlington creating longer term increased traffic policing costs.

We understand the need to facilitate improvement and maintenance of the parking provision in the area and the requirements to support strategic sustainable transport objectives, but feel this should not be to the detriment of local businesses.

(End of Report)