

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

<u>TOPIC - HILLIER WAY CAR PARK AND NORTH WALLS PARK ACCESS ROAD</u> <u>– CAR PARKING CONTROLS</u>

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Dan Massey, 01962 848 543, dmassey@winchester.gov.uk

Committee Administrator: Nancy Graham, 01962 848235,

ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

<u>SUMMARY</u>

Hillier Way car park is located off Hillier Way in North Walls Park in the Abbots Barton area of Winchester, approximately 1100 metres north of the town centre. It is not currently the subject of any usage restrictions, nor is a charge made for its use. The car park is tarmac surfaced, but is not lit. It provides 32 car parking spaces, of which one space is used for recycling facilities.

The car park is owned by the City Council and maintained as part of the Town Forum's parks and gardens budget. The main function of the Hillier Way car park is to provide parking for people using the recreational facilities, open space and football pitches north of Winchester. However, the car park is now fully utilised during the working day by commuters who 'Park and Walk' into town. This action is not prohibited, but does mean that often there are no spaces available for recreational users during that time and therefore it is appropriate to consider ways of controlling the operation and use of the car park. During visits in May and December 2011 the car park was almost fully occupied by mid morning, with evidence of other long term parking on adjacent roads. It would appear that parts of Abbots Barton are being used for commuter parking including that part of Hillier Way which is public highway together with the access road into North Walls Park (past the Football and Rugby clubs) and the car park which is meant for users of the park and recreational facilities. This parking generates unnecessary car trips through residential areas and along the park access road which is utilised by pedestrians and cyclists. In the past, officers have been hesitant to introduce parking restrictions in this area as this would possibly lead to displacement of the commuter parking to nearby residential areas. However, as a wider review of parking in Abbots Barton is now under way, it is felt that it is now appropriate to do so.

It is therefore proposed to advertise a proposal for comment which will limit the time vehicles could park in the Hillier Way car park through a Parking Places Order to a maximum permitted stay of three hours. This would be sufficient for most leisure uses, whilst eliminating all-day use by commuters. There would be no need for any controls at the weekend, as commuter parking is not then an issue. The controls would need to be enforced by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers.

In order to further control parking in this area it is also proposed that a 'no waiting at any time restriction' (Mon-Fri) is introduced on Hillier Way and on the North Walls Park Access Road.

Following advertisement of these proposals a formal decision will be required before implementation.

DECISION

That public notice of the proposed traffic regulation order on the North Walls Park access road and the parking places order for the Hillier Way car park (as shown on the attached plan) be authorised.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

An alternative approach would be to introduce charging in this car park. However, it is felt that the likely level of income received would be very small, as people are currently only parking here because it is free and if charges are introduced then they would park elsewhere. There would also be costs associated with the introduction of charges and the ongoing cost of cash collection. Car park payment machines are also vulnerable to theft in isolated locations such as this, as there is no CCTV or lighting in this car park.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The consultation will be undertaken by officers within current available resources.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE DECISION

The Town Forum has considered these proposals and has endorsed the approach – Report <u>WTF166</u>, 25 January 2012 refers.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

n/a

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

n/a

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

n/a

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 09.03.12

Councillor Victoria Weston – Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment

