

Notes from meeting about parking
Wotton-under-Edge Civic Centre
3rd December 2008

Present: Paul Smith, Town Mayor
June Cordwell, Chairman of Town Regeneration Partnership
Glenys Sykes, Town Clerk
Jill Fallows, Stroud District Council
Abigail Sully, Stroud District Council
Gareth Kitchen, Chamber of Trade

Purpose of Meeting: To progress work on parking problems in the town and possible solutions.

Nothing more had been heard from the Directors of the Auction House about whether they would allow their car park to be used on days when it was not needed for their own purposes. It was not known when the Directors were going to discuss this.

Charging schemes:

Abigail circulated information on various possible charging schemes and possible income figures prepared by Stroud District Council were discussed.

The main information still awaited was the cost of purchasing and running a vehicle for the enforcing officer. It was important to allow for the costs of adequate cover.

It was agreed that three tariffs should be consulted on which might then be reduced to two.

The problem of displaced parking would need to be addressed if the scheme was introduced as this was likely to affect workers in the town centre and residents. A certain number of season tickets could be allocated - perhaps 10 for the Civic Centre Car Park. Other sites would be affected too and there was the danger that people would park in awkward places.

There was some discussion about a new car park usage survey. If this was done, care was needed in setting it up as the last survey had not taken into account the Co-op car park access through the Chipping. There were other temporary factors which might affect a survey, the workers for the refurbishment of the Baptist chapel were taking up spaces at present and Christmas would also distort usage. Late February might be a good time to consult.

A cabinet decision to consult would be needed and this would have to be worked into the revised timetable.

There was some discussion about whether residents of the Chipping should be entitled to parking permits. Who would administer these? Stroud District Council currently operated these but through Cotswold District Council.

On-street residential parking permits were dealt with by the County Council but it was not clear who set the criteria for such permits.

It was agreed that a report on the proposals should be taken to Town Council in February 2009 with details of the management agreement terms and the levels of enforcement. Jill and Abi would send a report to Glenys for inclusion on the agenda.

It would be necessary to ask the Town Trust whether they wished to continue the lease or to take the Chipping Car Park back. If it was decided to continue, there would need to be a rent review and income sharing. All of the Chipping would need to be included in this lease, whether or not the top area was marked out with spaces.

The view of the Chamber of Trade on the possibility of the scheme was mentioned. The Chamber had not met recently to discuss this. There were competing interests between the shops who wanted customers to have access to easy parking and businesses who needed long-term parking for their staff. It was agreed that there should be a formal consultation with the Chamber of Trade at the same time as the Town Council. Jill would give some thought to the best time to do this and what to disclose.

The means of measuring the success of the scheme was mentioned, possibly through surveys, trading figures and personal experience.

It was agreed that the group would meet again on 23rd January at 9.30am. 2009

Glenys Sykes
Town Clerk

Wotton-under-Edge