

REPORT TO THE CABINET

12 July, 2016

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dafydd Meurig

Subject: Off-street Parking Order

Contact officer: Dafydd Wyn Williams - Head of Regulatory Department [acting]

The decision sought/purpose of the report

Following consideration of the observations and objections received, to proceed to complete the statutory process to confirm the new Parking Order for Gwynedd.

To establish a new Local Parking Permit which will allow residents to buy an annual parking permit for the car park closest to their homes for a reduced price of £60 per annum.

Local member's views

The Order will be applicable to the whole county. Evidently, the consultation held addressed individual car parks, and local members and community and town councils were given an opportunity to respond to those proposals. The observations received have been summarised in Appendix 1.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the Cabinet meeting of 24 November 2015, consideration was given to a report which outlined the response received when consulting on the intention to create a new Parking Order for Gwynedd.
- 1.2 This means that the Council would introduce new management arrangements for 24 car parks throughout the county. 15 of these would be changed from being free car parks to ones with pay and display arrangements.
- 1.3 These changes were proposed following a review of all the car parks under the management of the Regulatory Department. A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken which led to drawing up the final list of car parks which would see a change in the existing management arrangements. The effort to create a new parking order will also lead to additional income which will contribute towards the Regulatory Department's efficiency savings targets.

- 1.4 When drawing up the Parking Strategy last year (which included a number of changes to the present arrangements including creating more pay and display car parks), consideration was given to equality matters and it was recognised that a full assessment would be required before implementing some aspects. However, introducing pay and display arrangements in more car parks does not discriminate in any way as the Council's arrangements for disabled parking will be unaffected.
- 1.5 The Cabinet resolved to adopt the recommendations and proceed to issue a final Statutory Notice of the intention to introduce the new Parking Order.
- 1.6 By now, that Statutory Notice has been issued and the period for receiving final observations or objections has closed.

2.0 Response to the Statutory Notice

- 2.1 No response was received to the proposal for 14 of the 25 location in question, namely:

Colwyn Banc, Beddgelert
Talbot Square, Barmouth
Frondeg, Pwllheli
Cei Bach, Porthmadog
Victoria Dock, Caernarfon
Pavilion Hill, Caernarfon
Dwyfor Office, Pwllheli
Old Castle Hotel, Harlech
Glan Môr Hiraël, Bangor
Cae Star, Bethesda
Pant Dreiniog, Bethesda
Main Car Park, Trawsfynydd
Y Ddôl, Nefyn
Afonfawr, Penllech, Tudweiliog

2.2 Observations were received in relation to the 10 other locations. Appendix A provides a summary of the main points raised by those who responded, together with the Department's response to each one. Our responses were limited to observations which were relevant to the proposal of creating a new Parking Order.

3.0 Conclusions following issuing the Statutory Notice

3.1 Clearly a number of the objections considered in Appendix A were common to several different areas, but in the majority of the cases the concerns expressed can be overcome.

3.2 However, consideration needs to be given to one field which had been causing considerable concern in several communities, namely the situation of residents who currently park their cars in car parks near their homes, and the concern that they will not be able to do so in the future. Several observations refer to the fact that there are no parking spaces near their houses and that they are completely dependent on being able to park their cars in the car parks closest to their homes.

3.3 Of course, there is no duty on the Council to provide free parking spaces for home-owners. However, following receiving these observations, it is believed that the Council should try to assist with such situations and to that end it is proposed that a new Local Parking Permit be established.

3.4 The Council already offers an Annual Parking Permit which allows the holder of the Permit to park in any long-stay car park in Gwynedd which is in Council ownership. The cost of the Annual Parking Permit is £125.

3.5 The purpose of the Local Parking Permit would be to offer residents of houses the right to buy a parking permit for the closest long stay car park to their homes. It would therefore be targeted specifically at those who otherwise have nowhere to park near their homes. The cost of the new Local Parking Permit would be £60 per annum or a little over £1.00 per week.

3.6 It is believed that the Council's response to the remaining objections is reasonable and therefore it is recommended to proceed to confirm the new Parking Order in accordance with the Cabinet's previous decisions.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Following consideration of the observations and objections received, to proceed to complete the statutory process to confirm the new Parking Order for Gwynedd.
 - 4.2 In response to concerns presented during the period to receive objections, to establish a new Local Parking Permit which will allow residents to buy an annual parking permit for the car park closest to their homes for a reduced price of £60 per annum.
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Views of the statutory officers

The Chief Executive:

When the matter came before the Cabinet in November 2015, I indicated in my remarks that the consultation took place with members and local communities on the proposals before compiling the draft order. Further to this, comments have been received on the order and the report identifies the Service's response to those comments. In particular, the effort of the Service to respond to concerns about parking by residents by introducing Local Parking Ticket seems a moderate and reasonable solution to a real problem that has been identified by some residents.

The Monitoring Officer:

The report appropriately summarises the objections received following the statutory notice of the order. The Cabinet needs to consider these objectives in reaching a decision to confirm the order or not.

The Head of Finance Department:

Following a report to Cabinet on February the 19th, 2015, recommendations made following a comprehensive review of all aspects relating to parking management in the County were approved, and a number of these were implemented as from April 1st, 2015. The decision sought here is on one of the recommendations to extend the Parking Order so as to introduce new management arrangements for additional car parks within the county. This will mean that a fee can be charged for use of those car parks and at the time an additional income of £179K was estimated.

Although parking charges are a contentious issue for a number of inhabitants and elected members, extending the parking order in accordance with these recommendations would contribute further towards achieving the Regulatory Department's savings target, which in turn will contribute towards the Council's savings strategy.

Appendices

Appendix A - Summary of the Responses to the Statutory Notice, together with the Council's response