

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

DECISION

meeting date: TUESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2022
title: CAR PARKING REPORT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP - DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update Members on current car parking issues.
- 1.2 To update Members on the replacement of the parking machines.
- 1.3 To discuss the bicycle lockers on Chester Avenue Car Park.
- 1.4 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
 - Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
 - Corporate Priorities – To ensure the best use of Council resources.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Proposed New Car Park

- 2.1.1 A Parking Study was carried out by officers in 2017. The report was submitted for information to the Car Park Working Group outlining the position with capacity on short stay car parks in Clitheroe Town Centre. The report indicated that usage was close to capacity at peak times on most car parks in the town centre. This issue was subsequently discussed at a number of the car park working group meeting discussing possible options.
- 2.1.2 Members are reminded that the conclusion of the above survey was that plans were required to start making provision for additional parking in Clitheroe as the number of houses increased because although Clitheroe was within capacity most of the time, at peak times there was a growing problem.
- 2.1.3 During the Covid 19 pandemic national shopping habits had changed and people were shopping differently with many more doing it on-line, so a follow-up survey was commissioned to establish whether demand had changed locally.
- 2.1.4 A further Parking Study has been carried by officers this year. The study showed that although Lowergate car park reached capacity on Saturday none of the other short stay car parks reached more than 75% capacity at any other time.
- 2.1.5 The results were discussed at the Car Park Working Group meeting on the 4 July and the Group concluded that there was, presently, no need for extra town centre parking provision. However, it was agreed that LCC should be continued to be lobbied to assist in providing better easier access to the underutilised market car park.

2.2 Car Park Machines

2.2.1 Further to the Car Park report from May 22 consideration has now been given to the 2 manufacturers of parking machines presently used by the Council. The machine prices and payment solutions have now been discussed and agreed with the car park working group meeting 20 July.

2.2.2 The final decision is to replace all but 2 of the machines with the payment options including coins, contactless, apple and Google Pay. The two other machines are located in Dunsop Bridge and Slaidburn car parks where there is no mobile phone signal. These machines will be coin only machines with the option to alter to contactless machines at a time when the mobile phone signal improves.

2.2.3 Part of the capital scheme will include the provision of better signage promoting the use of Mi Permit, the pay by phone method of parking payments.

2.3 Cycle Lockers on Chester Avenue Car Park

2.3.1 When LCC handed back the park and ride bays on Chester Avenue they also left a number of cycle lockers. They are in a reasonable condition but potentially too small to house all types of cycles.

2.3.2 The Council have been approached by a resident who would like to rent one of the lockers and has stated that she is prepared to pay an annual fee.

2.3.3 The suggested system would be for the resident to pay an annual fee and provide their own lock for the locker.

2.3.4 No fee exists presently for this service.

3 RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – A Capital Bid is already approved for the replacement of the car parking machines.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None arising as a direct result of this report
- Political – There appears to be little political support for the delivery of additional car parking in Clitheroe.
- Reputation – Providing car park machines with a wider variety of payments will only enhance the reputation of the council
- Equality & Diversity – None arising as a direct result of this report

4 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

4.1 Consider the recommendation of the Car Park Working Group to remove the provision of an extra car park in Clitheroe Town Centre from the capital programme and support officers lobbying LCC to assist in making the market car park more easily accessible.

4.2 Support the Car Park Working Group in their recommendation to replace the car park machines with new machines offering more payment methods.

- 4.3 Agree to the hiring out of the cycle lockers on Chester Avenue Car Park to residents and agree a nominal annual fee to be then included in fees and charges.

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