

**Minutes of the Sustainable Travel Committee meeting held.
at the Town Hall on Monday 12th July 2021 at 10am**

DATE & TIME	Monday 12 th July 2021 at 10am
PLACE	Town Hall
CHAIR	Cllr Bradbury
PRESENT	Cllrs Bradbury, Jeans, Rowan-Robinson, ESC Ward Cllr Beavan

Subject	
Apologies for absence	Apologies were received from SCC Cllr Ladd, Cllr Goldsmith, Cllr Jordan.
Declarations of Interest	<p><i>a) To receive any declarations of Personal Interest regarding the agenda. Nil.</i></p> <p><i>b) To receive any declarations of Pecuniary Interest regarding the agenda. Nil.</i></p> <p><i>c) To receive any request for dispensations regarding the agenda. Nil.</i></p>
Public session	There were no members of the public present.
East Suffolk Council proposed scheme for on street Permit parking	<p><i>Update - ESC Cllr Beavan – Ward Cllr Beavan advised that the East Suffolk Council consultation on resident parking will now be going out August–September once it has been viewed by SCC Highways.</i></p> <p>Cllr Rowan-Robinson suggested that from the draft it would appear that residents, and those owning second homes, together with ESC, will benefit from the scheme, whilst visitors, workers and those roads not covered by the scheme i.e., North Road will lose out. Discussion took place about how such a scheme would/would not assist traffic management/congestion and pollution.</p> <p>No data had yet been provided by ESC in conjunction to the proposed scheme i.e., the number of residential properties (including those used as second home) plus the visitors to those properties who can be accommodated on street under the scheme, vs the number of spaces presently used by others that will be lost.</p> <p>Discussion took place about the eligibility ESC would require for permits and eligibility for second cars, visitor permits, carer and tradespeople permit, together with spaces for those workers who presently park on street. With regards to holiday homes, it was not known whether they would be eligible and the criteria that would be applied.</p> <p>It was understood that similar schemes have been proposed by ESC for both Lowestoft and Framlingham and that these will be under consultation at the same time as that for Southwold. Members queried whether the proposed scheme for Southwold is a “one size fits all scheme” or whether ESC have designed the three schemes on an individual basis.</p> <p>It was noted that from previous parking data there is an estimated 800 spaces</p>

	<p>required to cover homeowners and a further 800 would be needed if they were all eligible for a visitor space and it was therefore not clear how many additional spaces would be provided for the other users as described above.</p> <p>Once the ESC consultation is available, the Town Council will be eligible to respond, as will any individuals.</p> <p>Cllr Jeans suggested that individuals should be asked to be specific in their responses to ESC about the reasons why they will be objecting or supporting the scheme in order to provide ESC with specific data when they in turn review the responses.</p> <p>Real time parking signage on major routes into Southwold – with Ringo being introduced into all the car parks it was suggested that the ability to provide real time parking data would be a valuable addition to any scheme being proposed for Southwold and that ESC should be asked to provide real time parking information on the major routes into Southwold.</p> <p>Action – Town Clerk to contact ESC in this respect.</p>
<p>Gardner Road/ Godyll Road car park - Parking scheme</p>	<p><i>To consider consultation responses for the Short Stay parking at Godyll Road car park.</i> The Town Clerk provided the breakdown of the consultation responses. 34% of the responses had provided a Southwold address, 18% a Reydon address, 7% a Lowestoft address and with 4% responding each from Wrentham, Beccles and Bungay. Within the responses 50 comments had been made in respect of workers parking, 23 comments had been made about resident permits with 14 comments expressed about parking costs. (The council study in 2017 on employees parking habits showed that 49% of workers park on street, 16 % park on the verges, 13% had private parking, whilst 20% at some time used the Gardner Rd/ Godyll Rd car park).</p> <p><i>Workers</i></p> <p>There will be no changes this year to on street parking. The verges alongside The Common will still be available. The car park will available at no cost/ time limit from 6pm – 8am. Millennium car park - contact had been made with the Chair of the Millennium Foundation in respect of the availability during the summer of Long Stay parking at the car park at the entrance to town. Some comments reflect that shift workers, in particular, find it difficult to park anywhere in town, especially during the summer when on street parking is difficult and Godyll Rd car park is full by the time they arrive. Question was raised as to whether Millennium Long Stay car park might be able to accommodate such workers either just for the summer or on a more permanent basis. It was suggested that the Millennium Trustees would need to have data on the number of workers who would be willing to use the car park and pay to park there. In response the Town Manager had consulted with the businesses to assess the level of demand from</p>

	<p>workers who would be willing to pay for an All-Day space and to date there are up to 40 workers who have advised that they would pay for an all-day space at the Millennium car park to alleviate the need for them to have to drive around the town to find somewhere to park during the summer.</p> <p>This matter is now with the Millennium Foundation for further consideration.</p> <p><i>Local residents</i> - The verges alongside The Common will still be available.</p> <p>As there will be no changes to the on street parking this year, discussion took place about potentially providing some informal permit provision on the verge of Gardner Road for those local residents around the Godell Road/Gardner Road area with no on street or off-street parking, together with potentially providing for carers who need to visit people within that area, as well as St Barnabas staff.</p> <p><i>Start date for the Gardner Rd short stay car park pilot.</i> Start date for the pilot to be mid-late September – pilot will operate for 12 months. (Noted that this start date will reduce impact on workers as seasonal workers will be finishing their employment by the time of implementation. Other workers should then be able to park on the verges and on street as usual).</p> <p>Action – Town Clerk to liaise with a) Common Trust and assess the provision of informal permits for a specific number of spaces along the Gardner Rd verge b) ESC regarding start date.</p>
<p>Electric Charging Units</p>	<p>Church Green area - Other areas – Cllr Beavan advised that with changes in technology it would be prudent not to purchase additional units at present – but to monitor the use of those at Church Green.</p>
<p>Other matters</p>	<p><i>Signage</i> – directional signage to car parks is the next priority action on the signage study that the committee had undertaken.</p> <p>Action - Contact to be made again with ESC/SCC regarding funding opportunities. TownApp to be updated with directions.</p> <p><i>20mph – feasibility</i> of scheme for High Street (see previous minutes) – A member of the public has asked whether this matter can be reconsidered. The meeting noted that Suffolk County Council had previously advised that the designation of Station Road and the High Street – both being an A road – would make them ineligible for inclusion within a 20mph scheme. Discussion took place as to whether any other areas in town might be eligible including Victoria Street/Pier Avenue etc.</p> <p>Action - It was agreed that contact would be made again with SCC Ward Councillor and SCC Highways Officer for clarity on the guidelines as they relate to non-A roads within the town.</p> <p><i>Pedestrian Priority areas</i> - It had also been suggested that consideration be given to pedestrian priority areas.</p> <p>Action - Further research to be undertaken. The Town Manager has data available from other towns and will prepare a presentation for councillors on how this operates in High Streets in other towns.</p>

	<p><i>Mill Lane corner to Rectory</i> – bollards removed. The existing lines and tarmac need maintenance.</p> <p>Action - this had been noted on the SCC Highways reporting tool.</p> <p><i>East Street Parking restrictions</i> – note expiry date. These parking restrictions are in force until October. There are presently 3 sets of parking bays, and the widest part of East Street is in the vicinity of the middle bay. To assist parking in the area ESC will be asked whether the restriction on this one bay (providing parking for 3 cars) could be suspended to enable 3 cars to park on street in this bay location.</p> <p>The pavements in this area are still extremely busy though, and in view of the narrowness of the road at either end, and the inherent need for vehicles to mount the pavement to pass other cars who use the parking spaces in these 2 bays, it was considered that the suspension of these parking restrictions should stay in place for the 2 bays at each end of East Street.</p> <p>Action – Town Clerk to liase with ESC re the middle bay.</p> <p><i>Date of next meeting</i> – TBC. Members confirmed that they would prefer Monday at 11am as the regular time for this Committee meeting.</p>
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