

Cabinet report



Report of head of economy, leisure and property

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To: Cabinet

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Rye Farm and Hales Meadow car park order 2012 - consideration of objections and representations

Recommendations

1. That cabinet makes no changes to the draft order.
2. That cabinet authorises the head of legal and democratic services to make the car park order 2012 and determine the date it comes into effect.

Purpose of report

1. This report invites cabinet to authorise the making of the 2012 order for Rye Farm and Hales Meadow car parks in Abingdon. Normally this would be in light of any objections or representations received, but we have not received any apart from the formal consent as required.

Strategic objectives

2. The provision and pricing of car parking impacts on two of the Vale Council's strategic objectives: building the local economy and effective management of resources. Introducing free parking in line with the Vale Council's other car parks would continue our investment to improve the viability and attractiveness of our towns, which is a corporate priority.

Background

3. In July 2011, the cabinet agreed to introduce a two hour free parking period and to advertise a new draft car park order setting out the proposed changes at the Vale Council's car parks. At that time it was not able to include the car parks at Rye Farm and Hales Meadow, Abingdon, as they were enforced by a South Oxfordshire car park order. The two car parks at Rye Farm and Hales Meadow are owned by the Vale Council but located in the district of South Oxfordshire.
4. In December 2011, the cabinet agreed to recommend that the Vale Council accepts agency powers from South Oxfordshire to operate Rye Farm and Hales Meadow car parks. The Vale Council agreed to accept the powers at its meeting on 22 February 2012. The new agency agreement is now in place and allows for the Vale Council to make a new order and administer it as well as being able to revoke the existing South order.
5. In December 2011, the cabinet also agreed to authorise the head of legal and democratic services to prepare and publish a draft order for Rye Farm and Hales Meadow under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and carry out the necessary consultations in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 and to report back to cabinet on the responses received after the end of the consultation period.
6. The new order will include Rye Farm and Hales Meadow car parks only and the main changes will be the same as those brought into the Vale Council's other car parks by the 2011 order and as shown in appendix 1, namely:
 - a) a two hour period of free parking
 - b) an increase in all parking charges for three hours or more of £0.30
 - c) an increase in permit costs of six per cent (which equates to between £0.10 and £0.20 a day for annual permit holders, dependant upon the type of permit held and the location)
 - d) display of a ticket from the commencement of parking, incorporating the free period
 - e) an extension of the period in which parking charges apply until 6pm. Because of the two hour free period, this would mean that people could park free of charge from 4pm onwards, as is the case at present.
 - f) introduction of a 'no return' period of two hours covering all of the car parks in a particular town. This will stop users having a free period of parking in the morning, going away for lunch and then returning less than two hours later to have a further period of free parking. Officers advise that whilst this provision is important it will be difficult to enforce, particularly where vehicles are moved from one car park to another.
7. Cabinet should note that these two car parks have a charging period that includes Sunday, unlike most other Vale Council car parks, which are chargeable only Monday to Saturday.

Consultation 19 April to 10 May 2012

8. Officers carried out a statutory consultation exercise on the proposed car park order. The consultation process included advertising the proposals in a local newspaper (The Oxford Mail), at each car park (Rye Farm and Hales Meadow), on the Vale Council's

website, consulting a number of statutory organisations and notifying the parish and town councils that the consultation was taking place.

9. Oxfordshire County Council has given their formal consent and they had no objections to the proposal. No responses were received in either support of, or opposing, the proposals.

Financial Implications

10. The report to cabinet on 8 July 2011 considered the financial implications of offering the free two hours parking from all car parks. Officers estimate the loss of income relating to the proposed changes at Rye Farm and Hales Meadow car parks at some £7,500 a year. This reduction has already been included in the budget for 2012/13.

Legal Implications

11. Cabinet is required to consider any objections to and representations upon the draft order and decide whether it wishes to modify the order in response to them or authorise the making of the order as advertised. As there have been no objections or representations, apart from no objections from the county council, officers recommend cabinet to make no changes to the draft order and to authorise the order.

Risks

12. Officers have benefited from the recent experience in 2011 of the making of the order for the other Vale Council car parks. We are now in a position to make the order and to implement the changes for the remaining two car parks at Rye Farm and Hales Meadow.

Other implications

13. Officers have given due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duties of the Equality Act 2010. The proposed changes will not directly or indirectly discriminate users who share a protected characteristic. Users who display a disabled badge will be unaffected by the changes. Whilst the proposals won't advance equality of opportunity for any one particular group, the free two hour period will increase access to these car parks for everyone.

Conclusion

14. The Vale Council has not received any objections to the Vale Council's draft car park order 2012 for Rye Farm and Hales Meadow. Therefore, officers recommend that cabinet makes no changes to the draft order. In addition, cabinet is asked to authorise the head of legal and democratic services to make the order and to determine the date it comes into effect.

Background Papers

- none

APPENDIX 1 VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF CHARGES FOR RYE FARM AND HALES MEADOW CAR PARKS, 2012

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 SCHEDULE OF CHARGES | | 8 EXCESS CHARGES AND CONCESSIONARY EXCESS CHARGES (not subject to VAT) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 7a | 7b | |
| NAME OF PARKING PLACE | POSITION IN WHICH VEHICLE MAY WAIT | PERMITTED CLASSES OF VEHICLE | HOURS AND DAYS OF OPERATION OF PARKING PLACE | CHARGING/ NON- CHARGING PERIODS AND MAXIMUM PERIOD FOR WHICH VEHICLES MAY WAIT | NO RETURN PERIOD | CHARGES FOR PARKING TICKETS Footnote 2 Footnote 3 | PERMITS (INC. VAT) Footnote 1 Footnote 3 | EXPIRED TICKET; EXPIRED PERMIT; NO PERMIT DISPLAYED; NO VALID TICKET OR PERMIT DISPLAYED; PERMIT OR TICKET NOT VALID FOR PARKING PLACE; WRONG REGISTRATION NUMBER ON TICKET; EXCEEDED MAX 3 HOUR STAY; EXCEEDED MAX STAY; RETURNED WITHIN 2 HOUR TIME LIMIT; NO VALID DISABLED BADGE DISPLAYED; PARKED IN AN UNAUTHORISED AREA; NOT PARKED WITHIN A MARKED BAY; EXCEEDED WEIGHT RESTRICTION; NO OVERNIGHT CAMPING |
| Rye Farm Abingdon | Wholly within a parking bay, disabled persons parking bay or motor cycle bay as maybe indicated by surface markings or signage | All classes of vehicle not exceeding 3.5 tonnes (70cwts) laden weight | All days all hours | Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm 10 hours Monday to Sunday 6pm to 8am 14 hours Maximum stay 24 hours | Two Hours | Not exceeding: - up to 2 hours no charge - up to 3 hours £1.50 - up to 4 hours £3.40 - up to 6 hours £4.30 - over 6 hours £5.30 No charge | £52 per month (5 day) £61 per month (6 or 7 day) £157 per quarter (5 day) £190 per quarter (6 or 7 day) £520 per annum (5 day) £622 per annum (6 or 7 day) Resident permit: £287 per annum or £144 six months Market trader permits, one day/week per year £82 | Excess Charge £80 payable within 28 days of the excess charge notice otherwise concessionary excess charge £50 if paid within 10 days. |

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rye Farm: Oversize vehicles | | All classes | All days all hours | Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm 10 hours Monday to Sunday 6pm to 8am 14 hours Maximum stay 24 hours | Two Hours | £7.40 for 24 hours or part thereof | £636 per annum (5 days) £159 per annum (1 day) Resident permit: £287 per annum or £144 per month Market trader permits, week per year £82 | |
| Hales Meadow Abingdon | Wholly within a parking bay, disabled persons parking bay or motor cycle bay as maybe indicated by surface markings or signage | All classes of vehicle not exceeding 3.5 tonnes (70cwts) laden weight | All days all hours | Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm 10 hours Monday to Saturday 6pm to 8am 14 hours Maximum stay 24 hours | Two Hours | Not exceeding: - up to 2 hours no charge - up to 3 hours £1.50 - up to 4 hours £3.40 - up to 6 hours £4.30 - over 6 hours £5.30 No charge | £52 per month (5 day) £61 per month (6 or 7 days) £157 per quarter (5 day) £190 per quarter (6 or 7 days) £520 per annum (5 day) £622 per annum (6 or 7 days) Resident permit: £287 per annum or £144 per month Market trader permits, week per year £82 | Excess Charge £80 payable within 28 days of the excess charge notice otherwise a secondary excess charge £50 if paid within 10 days |

Footnote 1: The Council will charge £12 when asked to issue replacement permits.

Footnote 2: No charges apply to motorcycles or vehicles displaying a disabled person's badge at all car parks.

Footnote 3: A valid ticket or parking permit will be required to be displayed during a charging period at those car parks where charges are payable, including those periods when a charge is not payable.