

SCRUTINY

Car Park
Management

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW

A Car Park Usage survey was carried by consultants RTA Associates in April 2004. This survey showed that in our:

Uncontrolled car parks

- the spaces were full by 9.30am
- there was very little turnover of space
- very few spaces available during the working day

Controlled car parks

- only at peak times, noon – 2.00pm were spaces sometimes not available
- there was high turnover of space
- each space is used an average of 4 times per day.

This shows that having controls on our car parks increases the availability of parking spaces throughout the working day for shoppers and visitors.

THE WORK OF THE REVIEW TEAM

Three nearby local authorities were visited, which included Hyndburn who operate disc parking. These visits were aimed at introducing the Members of the Review Team to parking related matters in general and to see first hand how other local authorities manage their parking facilities.

In visits to Ribble Valley and South Ribble where charges have been introduced for off-street car parking the additional revenue has been used to increase maintenance, fund capital improvements, introduce CCTV and introduce increased winter maintenance at no additional cost to the council tax payer.

The information gathered on these visits created the opportunity to investigate and report the parking issues that affect the Borough of Rossendale

A summary of the each visit is provided at **Appendix A**

THE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The four options presented at the Policy Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in January 2006 are set out below.

The Review Team considered each option in detail and their decision is set out on page 8 of this report.

1. **The introduction of charges and extension of disc controlled parking**

The current disc controlled parking does not have the flexibility to provide short stay parking for residents and longer stay parking for visitors yet stop all day commuter parking.

Introducing charges in our main commercial centres and extending disc parking across the rest of the borough will ensure parking is available which is cheap, flexible and encourages turn over of space.

Additionally, there is a need to provide some short stay parking in the outlying areas of the borough near to shops. It is therefore important to ensure that a balance is maintained in all areas of the borough to ensure that adequate off-street parking is available for shoppers, visitors and workers.

2. **The introduction of charges on short stay car parks, with 2 hours free parking**

Again the current disc controlled parking does not have the flexibility to provide short stay parking for residents and longer stay parking for visitors yet stop all day commuter parking.

Providing free parking for the first two hours and then charging for stays up to 5 hours continues the policy of providing free short stay parking whilst extending the availability of short to medium stay off street parking. Residents will continue to benefit from free short stay parking and along with visitors will now benefit from the extension of the maximum stay of up to 5 hours to enable longer visits.

3. **The extension of disc controlled parking**

The current method of Disc Controlled Short Stay parking in Rawtenstall and Waterfoot is accepted by both traders and residents in these areas and provides essential short stay parking.

Appendix B

COMMENTS FROM THE AREA FORUMS

Summary of comments from Whitworth Area Forum - 6 March 2006

Off-street parking

Selling of vehicles from car park	1
Entering & leaving a bit rough on Market St car park – nr funeral directors.	1
Used more now because only post office, disc control required on this car park	1

On-street parking

There were several issues raised about on-street parking however these will be dealt with separately as it is out of the remit of the Review Team	2
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Summary of comments from Bacup Area Forum - 10 March 2006

Off-street parking

Scarcity of car parks only 114 spaces in Bacup, not enough spaces.	2
The condition of the car parks	3
Some outlying car parks short stay	1
Derelict ground used	1
Disc parking – using service sector building	1
Public fears of pay parking include – loss of business for local shops; cost of parking; workers will have to pay	1
If charges are to be levied they need to be small, i.e. 20p per hour no more.	1
Disc parking borough wide	1
Car parking for the health centre is not sufficient as staff are using the car park – no room for patients so they are double parking on Rochdale Road causing traffic hazards	1

On-street parking

There were several issues raised about on-street parking however these will be dealt with separately as it is out of the remit of the Review Team	4
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Summary of comments from Haslingden Area Forum - 13 March 2006

Off-street parking

Concern was expressed by some members of the public and the fact that car parking spaces were being reduced	1
Several members of the public present expressed that they did not want paid for parking to be introduced.	1
They also recommended that additional parking spaces be introduced.	1
Several members of the public present expressed that they did not want paid for parking to be introduced.	1
Keep free but restricted parking – 2 hour disc parking works well.	1
Make all towns in Rossendale the same. Haslingden, Bacup and Rawtenstall should all have free restricted parking	1

On-street parking

There were several issues raised about on-street parking however these will be dealt with separately as it is outwith the remit of the Review Team	1
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Summary of comments from Rawtenstall Area Forum - 23 March 2006

Off-street parking

A lot of concern over the introduction of charges	
Additional parking provided by proposed developments would negate the need for charging	1
Concern that the decision to introduce charges had already been made by the Review Team	1
Proper Town Plan should drive parking facility with a link to the Forward Plan	1
Will issues in Crawshawbooth be investigated	1
Would the issue of commuters parking all day in Kay Street be addressed?	1
Would the Town Centre Plan make any suggestions raised by the Review Team on Council Car Parks irrelevant?	1
Councillor Young stated that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister under the terms of Rossendale Borough Council's Recovery Plan, could complain if they felt that the best use of land resources was not being considered and noted that this should be a factor in the Review Team's deliberations	1

On-street parking

There were several issues raised about on-street parking however these will be dealt with separately as it is outwith the remit of the Review Team	1
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Summary of comments from Crawshawbooth Area Meeting – 1 June 2006

Cllr Barnes outlined the following areas of concern of the Community Association:

Adelaide Street car park, the low wall and need for disabled bay on car park	
Water Street car park sign to say for use patrons to The Village Centre and tidying around the recycling centre	
Adelaide Street off-street parking provided on grassed area	
On-street parking review parking restrictions in Crawshawbooth by Lancashire County Council	

Points raised regarding the car parks in Crawshawbooth

Direction signs for all car parks	
Marking of spaces on Adelaide Street and Black Dog car park	
Redesign of Adelaide Street to enable better egress from car park	
Residents of Mansion House, Burnley Road use Black Dog car park for all day parking due to parking restrictions on Burnley Road	
Contact Greenvale Homes to request use of their land for public use (Alyson Barnes)	
Request to identify all council land in Crawshawbooth	
Acquiring additional land for use as car park for residents	
Use of Residents permits on car parks	

Points raised regarding on-street parking:

Requirement for additional enforcement	
One-way system in Lord Street area to free up on-street parking	
Existing roads are congested and essential services face difficulties in accessing some areas	
LCC Safety Scheme is being implemented in 3 stages, which is taking time and may require additional consultation	
DYL in vicinity of Goodshaw Avenue require re-marking	

**Summary of comments from
Waterfoot and Stacksteads Area Meeting – 5 June 2006**

Points raised regarding the car parks in Waterfoot:

Charging for parking would not jeopardise businesses in Waterfoot	
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Points raised regarding on-street parking:

End on parking outside the Duke of Buchleugh public house on Bacup Road	
Grammar school pupils/staff are parking on both sides of Tentafield Street Make Millar Barn Lane a one-way system	
Additional long stay off-street parking required in Waterfoot	
Turn play ground in to car park	
The bus stop on Burnley Road East opposite Smart Shop is under used and should be relocated as it is so close to the bus turning area on Burnley Road East	
Taxi's are parking all day in the turning circle on Warth Old Road	
Friday night enforcement is required in the vicinity of the Auction Rooms.	
The time limit on the limited waiting bays is not long enough – it should be extended beyond the 30 minutes	

APPENDIX C

Summary of petitions submitted by Bacup Traders and Rossendale Free Press

The Bacup Traders petition was signed by a total of 73 people.

The petition read:

'We the undersigned being Bacup traders wish to bring to the attention of the council the desperate need for extra parking for our customers. We have lost car parking space to the new health centre and the proposed restrictions o St James' Street. We are losing custom due to the lack of parking. If this is not resolved urgently there will be no shops left. We call upon the council to **ACT NOW**'

The Bacup Customers petition was signed by a total of 439 people.

The petition read:

'We the undersigned being Bacup customers wish to bring to the attention of the council the desperate need for extra parking for our customers. We have lost car parking space to the new health centre and the proposed restrictions o St James' Street. We are losing custom due to the lack of parking. If this is not resolved urgently there will be no shops left. We call upon the council to **ACT NOW**'

Summary of submissions from Rossendale Free Press

565 pre printed letters signed by 701 people were received via the Rossendale Free Press campaign letter addressed to Carole Todd, Head of Streetscene and Liveability, the letter read:

'I would like to register my strong opposition to the proposed introduction of parking charges by Rossendale Council.

I believe Rossendale's towns and villages only retain their viability because parking for shoppers and workers is free and I fear any charges would lead to trade going elsewhere.

Decisions Made:

1. That disc parking be extended throughout the Borough.
2. That the Head of Economic Regeneration and Strategic Housing be requested to consult Ward Councillors asking them to check whether the proposed classifications of the car parks in their Wards are suitable.
3. That action be taken with a view to the prohibition of parking by Hackney Carriages and/or Private Hire Vehicles on short stay car parks between the hours of 8am to 6pm.
4. That in line with Lancashire County Council's Mobility Guidelines additional disabled parking spaces be increased, subject to a more detailed report to be presented to the Cabinet.
5. That the Review Team continues to meet and establish Terms of Reference to include:
 - Investigation of options in terms of residents parking schemes
 - Monitor disc parking scheme and consider whether length of stay is appropriate to each individual car park
 - Investigate alternative revenue sources
 - Identification of new car parks
 - Investigation of options for additional facilities for cycle, motorcycle and coach and bus parking for the Borough
6. That previous resolutions relating to the Management of Car Parks in the Borough be rescinded.