



Services Committee	Tuesday, 22 March 2016	Matter for Information and Decision
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Title: **Parking at Blaby Road Park, South Wigston**

Author: **Margaret Smith - Facilities and Administration Manager**

1. Introduction

1.1 Over the last few months the number of complaints relating to abuse of the car park usage in Blaby Road Park, South Wigston has increased. There are 8 marked parking bays including three disabled bays. The complaints include:

- non disabled drivers using the disabled bays
- cars parking along the access road (ie not in a marked bay)
- non park users parking in the car park to the exclusion of park users.

2. Recommendations

That Members consider implementing one of the options given below:

2.1. Option 1

Agree to leave the situation as it is.

2.2. Option 2

Purchase and install signage displaying parking rules to enable the Civil Enforcement Officers to issue Penalty Charge Notices for parking offences. In line with the current Parking Order for Blaby Road Park this would allow parking in a marked bay for up to 12 hours. Cost of implementing this option approx £600 which could be done from an existing budget.

Option 3

2.3.

As above but amend the current Parking Order so that Blaby Road Park is limited to a maximum of 3 hours parking in a marked bay. Amending the current Order is a lengthy statutory process with the requirement to place notices in the press and allow a statutory consultation period. Cost of implementing this option inclusive of signage approx £2.5k. This option would require a supplementary budget allocation.

3. Information

3.1 When Blaby Road Park was re-landscaped the opportunity was taken to move the car park to the far side of the park near to the pavilion in order to deter non park users from parking there. At the time the re-development was completed there was no intention of re-installing signage relating to parking restrictions.

3.2 Prior to the re-development of the park signage in the car park gave details of the parking restrictions and penalties for non compliance. The sign (erroneously) allowed

parking for up to 3 hours and was enforced by the Civil Enforcement Officers with penalty notices being issued for overstaying, not parking in a marked bay and for abuse of disabled parking spaces. However, the Parking Order that was in force at the time gave the maximum stay as 12 hours. This discrepancy was picked up at almost the same time the re-development got underway and, as the sign was removed at this point, there was no need to take any action to resolve the error.

- 3.3 In April 2015 a new Parking Order came into force; the narrative of the order was not changed for car parks within parks which all have a maximum stay of up to 12 hours.
- 3.4 In order for parking restrictions to be enforced signage has to be displayed in compliance with the Traffic Management Acts. Installation of signage would deal with the issues of abuse of the disabled bays and cars not parking in a marked bay but would not prevent non park users using the parking bays. Signage is already displayed stating that the car park is for park users only but non compliance is not an enforceable offence.
- 3.5 There is a perception that the parking spaces are being used by students of South Leicestershire College. The Facilities and Administration Manager has twice written to the Principal asking that students be reminded to make use of the college car park. In response the College has confirmed that they do remind students of this but state that *'it is not possible to distinguish 'student cars' so beyond reminders it is difficult to carry out any further actions.'*
- 3.6 Implementation of Option 2 or Option 3 would affect football and bowls team members who frequently overspill the parking spaces and park along the access road. This problem was foreseen at the time the park was re-developed and negotiations were held with the Tesco store who agreed to the use of their car park by footballers and bowlers. This was communicated to the teams at the time but there has been reluctance by players of both sports to take advantage of this agreement.
- 3.7 Option 3 would allow up to 3 hours parking but this may be detrimental to Members of the bowls club as matches often exceed this amount of time.
- 3.8 It should also be noted that none of the options will stop non park users parking in the parking bays so long as the driver is complying with the enforceable parking regulations.

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Implications	
Financial (CR)	Other than option 3, no significant implications.
Legal (AC)	No significant implications.
Risk (AC)	Loss of car parking spaces at Council facilities.
Equalities (AC)	No significant implications.