



**Policy, Finance and
Development
Committee**

Tuesday, 19 July 2016

Matter for Decision

Title: Revision of The Borough of Oadby and Wigston (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2015

Author: Margaret Smith, Facilities and Administration Manager

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following problems with parking at Blaby Road Park and Station Street car parks, South Wigston, liaison has taken place with South Leicestershire College requesting their assistance to prevent college students using the car parks for long stays to the exclusion of others. Despite best efforts of both the Council and College the situation remains the same and complaints are still being received.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members decide whether they wish to proceed with the process to amend the Parking Order to reduce waiting time at Blaby Road Park Car Park and Station Street Car Parks, South Wigston from a maximum 12 hours stay to a maximum 3 hour stay.
- 2.2 That Members agree to signage being installed in both car parks as detailed at 3.13 below.

3. Information

Situation so far:

- 3.1 A report was submitted to Service Delivery Committee on 22 March 2016 relating to complaints received about parking at Blaby Road Park. The complaints include:
- a) abuse of the disabled bays
 - b) cars parking along the access road and
 - c) non park users using parking bays for long stays at the exclusion of park users.

Three options were put before Service Delivery Committee:

- **Option 1:** Leave the situation as it is.
- **Option 2:** Purchase and install signage displaying parking rules thereby allowing Civil Enforcement Officers to issue Penalty Charge Notices for parking offences. Under the current Parking Order this would allow parking in a marked bay for up to 12 hours.
- **Option 3:** As option 2, but amend the Parking Order so that Blaby Road Park is limited to a maximum of 3 hours parking in a marked bay.

However, Members of Service Delivery Committee requested that in the first instance further work be undertaken to address the underlying causes of the complaints in consultation with South Leicestershire College.

Further action taken:

- 3.2 Initially, letters were sent to the College Principal requesting that students be asked to park in the College car park. The College agreed to bring this to the attention of the students but pointed out that, *'it is not possible to distinguish 'student cars' so beyond reminders it is difficult to carry out any further actions.'*
- 3.3 A subsequent liaison meeting has taken place between Officers and South Leicestershire College but this has not led to improvements in the parking situation.
- 3.4 Complaints continue to be received from people who wish to use the park but are unable to park as the parking spaces are being used by non park users.
- 3.5 In addition a Councillor has flagged up similar problems at Station Street Car Park which is also being used by college students as a free alternative to parking in the college car park. There is the opportunity to include changes to the length of parking time in Station Street car park at the same time as any changes are agreed at Blaby Road Park car park.

Process for amending the Parking Order:

- 3.6 The current Parking Order allows a maximum of twelve hours stay at both Blaby Road Park car park and Station Street car park but there is no signage installed and therefore no enforcement can take place. Signage could be installed under the current order which would allow abuse of the disabled bays and not parking in a marked bay to be addressed by enforcement but would not address the problem of lengthy stays in either car park.
- 3.7 Amending the Parking Order to reduce parking time at both sites to a maximum of three hours and installing signage may deter non park users and college students from using the car parks if they are staying over three hours but both car parks would still be on a first come first served basis available to all users.
- 3.8 The powers to make or revise an Off-Street Parking Places Order are provided in the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984. The procedures for making an Order are also specified in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. Amending the current Order requires the placing of notices in the press together with a statutory consultation period and an indicative timescale is given below:

Committee Approval to make a draft Order	19 th July 2016
Start consultation period: Advertise proposals and effects in local press, display notices in car parks, Consultation with Police, Highway Authority, Make documents available for inspection, consult Highway Authority, Police, and other organisations	26 th July 2016
End of consultation period: (Allowing 21 clear days from commencement of consultation for objections and representations to be received)	17 th August 2016
Report to members to include objections, representations and indicative replies.	20 th September 2016
Make and implement the Order To include sending all statutory consultees notification of making the Order, advertising the making of the Order in	1 st October 2016

the local press, display notices of the making of the order in car parks, make the Order available for inspection.	
Prepare letters of response to all objectors, stating reasons for going ahead with the scheme, also prepare letters for reasons for <u>not</u> going ahead with elements of the scheme.	Within 14 days of making the Order
Notify objectors of reasons for making the Order in spite of outstanding objections / or, reasons for rejecting elements of the Order	Within 14 days of making the Order

- 3.9 The cost of amending the current order is approximately £2k for which a supplementary budget allocation would be required.

Impact of amending the Parking Order to reduce length of stay to 3 hours:

- 3.10 Blaby Road Park car park: the car park is available on a first come first served basis regardless of reason for visit. Limiting the stay to three hours may deter non park users. However, the time limit would also impact on footballers and bowlers who park in marked bays as they are often on site longer than three hours. Anyone staying over three hours would be liable to receive a Penalty Charge Notice.
- 3.11 Station street car park: Limiting the stay to three hours may deter college students due to the time limit but the car park is available to all on a first come first served basis and introducing a time limit may also impact on local residents, shoppers and staff of local businesses who would be restricted to the same time limit. The consequence may be the displacement of vehicles in to the surrounding area which could cause further problems. Anyone staying over three hours would be liable to receive a Penalty Charge Notice.
- 3.12 Oadby and Wigston Borough Council employ one full time equivalent Civil Enforcement Officer via Harborough District Council. Blaby Road Park and Station Street would add to the locations already enforced but no additional enforcement time would be allocated.

Signage:

- 3.13 Members are asked to agree that signage be installed at both Blaby Road Park Car Park and Station Street Car Park explaining the parking regulations so that abuse of the disabled bays and drivers not parking in a marked bay can be addressed by enforcement. The length of parking time on the signs would be given as 12 hours (if Members do not agree to amend the Parking Order) or 3 hours (if Members agree to amend the Parking Order)
- 3.14 The cost of signage is covered by an existing budget.

Background Documents:-

Services Committee: Parking at Blaby Road Park, South Wigston, 22nd March 2016

Email: margaret.smith@oadby-wigston.gov.uk

Tel: (0116) 257 2832

Implications	
Financial (CR)	The cost of the Parking Order should be met from savings elsewhere.
Legal (AC)	A statutory process must be followed to amend the Parking Order which is set out in the report.
Risk (MS)	CR5: Effective utilisation of assets

Equalities (MS)	The ability to carry out enforcement on the abuse of disabled parking bays should have a positive impact on people with disabilities. No negative impacts have been identified. Initial Screening is attached.
	Equality Assessment
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial Screening <input type="checkbox"/> Full Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable