

Item 14 - Sevenoaks Parking Review

The attached report was considered by the Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee on 13 October 2020. The draft Minutes have not yet been published but the minute extract below has been agreed with the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee (13 October 2020, Minute 34)

The Parking Manager presented the report which informed Members of the findings of the Sevenoaks parking review carried out between October 2019 and January 2020. The review recommended that where parking issues had been identified, that reasonable and proportionate measures be taken to improve parking management arrangements. The review also recommended that no further action at this stage be taken in locations where feedback indicated that no significant parking issues exist. It was acknowledged that some areas had more complex parking issues which could need further investigation. It was also proposed that new measures to help support low paid local workers and improve the benefits that existing zones provided to residents.

The Parking Manager further advised that there needed to be a balance for resident and non-resident permits and “exclusive” resident only schemes did not fall under Kent County Council’s guidelines. By looking at some of the boundaries for the parking zones this would provide greater flexibility for resident parking. During the construction of Sevenoaks Town Car Park, permit holders were parking in other areas including in underused resident permit zones, due to many of the houses having off-street parking. It was hoped by offering low paid workers a reduced cost permit to park in these areas, (generally at the top of St Botolphs Road) this would support the local economy.

In response to questions, Members were advised that the resident parking schemes were designed to meet an original parking need and that residents in new builds and conversions were not therefore eligible to park in the existing schemes

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that:

- a) the ratio of resident and non-resident permits be adjusted to help ensure that parking availability is maximised throughout the day;

- b) the period of no return in all parking bays in zone A be increased from 1 hour to 4 hours;
- c) “no return” to all roads in Zone A, until the 4-hour no return period has passed;
- d) rationalising boundaries and eligibility to maximise convenience and accessibility for residents be reviewed; and
- e) Non-resident on-street parking permits to low paid workers at a reduced rate, where spare capacity exists, be offered.