

24 March 2014**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES & CULTURE
SOUTHWELL LIBRARY CAR PARK MANAGEMENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for Southwell Library car parking management and charging to be implemented in partnership with Newark and Sherwood District Council as outlined in the report.
2. To seek approval for the Group Manager, Property Strategy, Compliance and the Group Manager Legal and Democratic Services, to agree the details of the agreement with Newark & Sherwood District Council.

Information and Advice**Context**

3. The Bramley Centre is home to Southwell Library, the local Young People's Centre (Core Centre) and a Registrar's office. It also provides the base for the mobile library serving the south of Nottinghamshire.
4. The car park at the rear of the Bramley Centre provides 25 car parking spaces for customers and officially offers up to 2 hours free parking for customers.
5. Through observations it is clear that use of the car park is not limited to the 2 hours free basis on which it was provided in 2006 and is not limited to Bramley Centre customers only. The majority of cars stay well beyond 2 hours and therefore prevent Bramley Centre customers from using the short stay parking facilities.
6. The Library Service has undertaken re-marking of the car park during the last 2 years to try to maintain emergency and mobile library access to the rear of the site following regular occasions when uncontrolled parking has blocked the required access.
7. Initial discussions have taken place with Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) which has offered to manage public parking on the site and implement charges based on a 50% share of income between NSDC and NCC Libraries.
8. Set up costs are estimated to be around £3,000 which will be funded from the public library service minor works budget.

9. This development would bring the car park in line with car parking management in the town.
10. There are a number of charging options available. To align the charging regime with other public car parking in the town it is proposed to have 2 hours free parking with charging thereafter being necessary. Failure to display a ticket or overstaying the time will result in penalty charges being issued.
11. The County Council will retain all rights over the conditions of use of the car park.

Other Options Considered

12. To do nothing in this instance would leave the Bramley Centre car park as the only free parking in the town centre which would mean it would always be the most attractive to motorists wanting to leave their cars for lengthy periods, thus preventing customers from parking close to the Bramley Centre.
13. Other car park operators could be approached to manage the facility, however with the charging regime proposed it is likely to produce a low level of income which would reduce its attractiveness. The District Council also has the advantage of operating other car parks in the town and therefore benefit from economies of scale.
14. Other options including refunds for Centre users have been considered but would create significant administration for staff.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. The proposed option would bring this car park into line with the rest of the town centre and would ensure that the car park is managed to encourage turnover whilst also providing a potential income.
16. Enforcement of the car park would prevent illegal parking that may prevent emergency vehicles access to the rear of the Centre and often hinders access for the mobile library which is housed at the rear of the Centre.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) approval be given for Southwell Library car parking management and charging to be implemented in partnership with Newark and Sherwood District Council as outlined in the report.

- 2) approval be given to the Group Manager, Property Strategy, Compliance and the Group Manager, Legal and Democratic Services, to agree the details of the agreement with Newark & Sherwood District Council.

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Constitutional Comments (NAB 03/03/14)

18. Finance and Property Committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (KLA 04/03/14)

19. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraphs 7 & 8 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Southwell and Caunton Cllr Bruce Laughton

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