

Cirencester Parking Demand Project

Meeting notes 4th March 2016

Please note these notes are available to the public except any sections shown in yellow which must remain confidential.

- Attendees: Councillors Chris Hancock, Sue Jepson, Mark Harris and Jenny Forde
Christine Gore, Claire Locke, Christine Cushway, Philippa Lowe
Apologies: Councillor Nick Parsons

Councillor Hancock welcomed Councillor Forde who has now joined the Project Board.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Most Actions arising dealt with in Agenda.

(2) ACTION Carried Forward - CG to meet with SJP – meeting planned for next week.

Text has been deleted to protect confidential information relating to specific negotiations with site owners, site purchase and lease negotiations and financial data which cannot yet be made public.

Need for additional cycling provision – businesses need to provide facilities i.e. showers and lockable storage for helmets and other cycling kit. **ACTION - CG & CH will ask SJP what incentives they are offering staff to find alternative modes of transport.**

Could do cross agency bike promotion, tied in with NOCTURN bike race in August.

CDC know how many season ticket holders are from SJP – this data is not collected when tickets are sold. There is no capacity to take additional Season ticket holders (STH). Some car parks are 80% STH so only 20% for others.

Watermoor school site could be used for businesses for temporary parking. **ACTION - CG going to discuss site with GCC.**

Could promote use of Trinity road car park for Waitrose staff on Saturdays.

ACTION Carried Forward – Text has been deleted to protect confidential information relating to specific negotiations with site owners, site purchase and lease negotiations and financial data which cannot yet be made public.

(5) Local Plan response – CL reported on a meeting with Chris Vickery and David Halkyard who are working on the Local Plan – they have the consultation response from the Board and will look at how the parking issues can be fully embedded in the Local Plan.

(5) Health and wellbeing promotion of walk/cycle to work - ACTION c/f- CG to speak to Diana Shelton's team & Cllr Sue Coakley.

(5) Illegal Gypsies/Travellers encampments – Maria Wheatley, Parking Manager attended a County meeting on illegal encampments in car parks, as a number of authorities have had similar problems – group will look to see if a group approach or collective action is possible.

3. Update on Calculation of Future Parking Spaces required

CL reported that the Toolkit provided by GCC is very generic and does not allow for Cotswold factors such as levels of car ownership, poor bus services etc. Based on the generic toolkit it calculates that we do not have a parking problem and do not need additional provision – this is clearly not the case so we are seeking to development our own bespoke toolkit which will provide an evidence based system for calculating the additional capacity required. This may take some time to deliver so we will need to make some estimates based on existing demand and likely growth.

The Parking Strategy 2010 identified future demand based on national trends but was based on there being some spare capacity and the Local Plan Framework did not identify the extent of residential growth which is now planned. Extract from strategy below:

Surveys suggest that there is currently an average daily space capacity of around 150 spaces in Cirencester, which equate to approximately 10% of the total spaces available. This suggests existing provision could meet increased demand of up to 10%. If estimates of 15 – 20% increase are realised than an additional provision of between 75 – 150 spaces will be necessary by 2026.

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We need to consider Policy wording – conditions need to cover green travel but not just writing a travel plan, there needs to be a condition to the Planning permission i.e. to require bike facilities.

4. Progress Updates

(a) Leaders announcement

Councillor Stowe announced that the Old Memorial Hospital site (OMH), the Old Station and the Waterloo car parks will be offered up to the private sector to enable additional parking to be delivered as soon as possible. We will invite expressions of interest on the 3 sites – there has already been some interest from developers.

Need to be clear what we want as this has inhibited progress previously. Need to clearly identify amount of parking required and any other parameters or constraints i.e. retention of Air Raid shelter and Old Station Building.

The Council could retain Car parks to manage and take income or leave provision to private sector.

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There are multiple options:

- Sites could be split as lots,

Could retain parking or pass responsibility to developer. Text has been deleted to protect confidential information relating to specific negotiations with site owners, site purchase and lease negotiations and financial data which cannot yet be made public.

- Could long lease site or dispose of site. Martin Searles (Police Agent) meeting with Lynden this afternoon.

ACTION - Develop MOU with Police. Need to inform them of our requirements/ project brief.

ACTION – to come back to Board with a formal proposal for the bid process.

ACTION - Seek pre-app advice even though we don't know what the development will be. If we don't do this then there will be a large resource requirement from developers asking these questions. CC to arrange meeting with PL, Kevin and Sophia

Provision of Temporary Car Parks

In order to meet the short term but immediate need for parking before car park development can be completed and to meet the need for parking when cars are displaced during development, a temporary car park(s) needs to be found. This site could be used with minimal development i.e. no hard standing but grass crete to enable use in wet weather, minimal lighting for health and safety. Have invited interest from land owners and will actively pursue any sites that look suitable.

Also looking at smaller sites – Text has been deleted to protect confidential information relating to specific negotiations with site owners, site purchase and lease negotiations and financial data which cannot yet be made public.

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6. Any Other Business

Cllr Hancock raised the 'Very Light Railway' and is seeking district support. Feasibility study to introduce rail link using existing line from Kemble. May be funding streams for infrastructure available. Could move Old Station building to serve new line if this became viable.

Board should provide an update on Project in Cotswold News

Need to relaunch MIPermit APP – people don't know they can use it.

CC read out a draft statement on the Brewery development which the developer is seeking to provide some assurance that the Council has no current intentions to remove the car park from this site. It was agreed CC would send the draft statement to Councillor Hancock for Agreement.

CL explained that a report had now been received from our consultant on alternatives to Pay and Display parking. It indicates that there is no strong business case to change machines now but alternatives could be considered when machines need replacement. This is of particular interest to the Board as alternative methods could be considered when new decked car parks are designed.

ACTION – CL to circulate the report to Board.

7. Date of next meeting: 11th April at 1.30 p.m. in the Ermin Room