

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Resident Parking Permits – Watermeadow Car Park
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Cllr Mike Smith
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	Chris Marchant
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Simon Rycraft
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>	St. Mary's & Waterside

## **1. Purpose of Report**

This report sets out the details of the proposal to introduce a resident parking permit for residents living in the older part of Chesham where resident parking is an issue. The permit would allow residents to park off street within the Watermeadow Car Park at a discounted rate.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That members:

- 1) Approve the introduction of a one year pilot Resident Parking Permit scheme to enable residents living in Church Street, Bury Lane, Pednormead End, Wey Lane, Germain Street (including the new flats at Lancaster House) and King Street in Chesham to park within the Watermeadow Car Park at a discounted rate.
- 2) Provide delegated powers to the Head of Service in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to finalise the details of the scheme.

## **2. Reasons for Recommendations**

The area covered by the proposed parking scheme has been the subject of reviews and surveys over a number of years all of which have highlighted a real issue for residents with no off street parking trying to park on the highway. Bucks CC have proposed a number schemes including a resident parking permit scheme which, at the time did not meet BCC's criteria by way of support required, but still the problem persists. For a limited number of residents a permit scheme would be an acceptable solution and whilst we cannot offer this on street we are able make use of unutilised capacity in the Watermeadow Car Park and in return charge a nominal fee to cover costs of administration and enforcement..

## **3. Content of Report**

- 3.1.** It has been recognised for some time that the area consisting of Church Street, Bury Lane, Pednormead End, Wey Lane, Germain Street (including the new flats at Lancaster House) and King Street in Chesham has significant parking issues.

BCC commissioned a survey of the area in October 2013 which highlighted that there was a 'significant level of near or over capacity parking demand in the area that could be addressed by the introduction of residents parking measures on an area wide basis'.

- 3.2.** This area is located to the south of the town centre and has a significant level of on street controls in place largely to ensure the free passage of two-way traffic and to provide short stay parking close to the town centre.

- 3.3.** In September 2015 BCC launched a consultation “Amendments to current parking arrangements in Chesham Town Centre, Buckinghamshire” which covers the whole of Chesham Town Centre area and includes minor amendments to parking restrictions in Germain Street and Church Street. but these are not expected to have a significant impact on the residents parking problems
- 3.4.** Chesham Town Council has undertaken a resident parking survey and a recent evening surgery was held for local residents to come and discuss their parking issues. What has been highlighted is that the area generally suffers from a shortage of parking space that can be utilised by residents. Available space during the day is utilised by commuters, office/shop workers and shoppers. The local school and nursery also has an impact with parents dropping off and picking up.
- 3.5.** The request has been made for Chiltern District Council to set up a residents parking scheme to allow residents meeting a defined criteria to park within the Watermeadow Car Park. Aylesbury Vale District Council already offer 2 schemes for residents living in the older part of the town centre where on street parking is an issue and it is suggested that we develop a scheme similar to this.
- 3.6.** The proposal would be that residents living in the streets included in the scheme be allowed to purchase a permit to park in Watermeadow car park at a cost of £80 per year. Applicants will be requested to provide proof of occupancy and ownership of the vehicle. It is necessary to impose these checks to prevent abuse of the scheme.
- 3.7.** It is estimated that between 20 and 30 residents may apply for a permit. A recent capacity survey of Chesham car parks indicated that at peak occupancy there were still 66 spaces available. This scheme will therefore not cause capacity issues and will bring in additional income from underutilised space.

#### **4. Consultation**

*Not Applicable*

#### **5. Corporate Implications**

- 5.1.** Financial: It is proposed that a charge of £80 per year is levied for the proposed resident permit in line with the charge made by Aylesbury Vale. This will cover administrative and enforcement costs.
- 5.2.** Legal: this proposal can proceed without the off street parking order needing to be amended

#### **8. Links to Council Policy Objectives**

Having listened to residents and working with the Town Council we are able to promote a more cohesive community by making better use of spare capacity within the car park: offering a resident parking permit to help ease a difficult parking environment

#### **9. Next Step**

- Scheme details to be developed and agreed by the Head of Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holder

## Chiltern District Council

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- Qualifying residents to be invited to apply for new permit.

<b>Background</b>	none
<b>Papers:</b>	