



Cabinet 25 July 2012

Recommendations from the Bury St Edmunds Area Working Party: 9 July 2012 (Aug12/07)

Cabinet Members:

Cllr Robert Everitt

Cllr Terry Clements

Chairman of the Working Party:

Cllr Robert Everitt

1. Amendments to the boundaries of the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre and Victoria Street Conservation Areas (Report D61)

RECOMMENDED

That Council be recommended to:-

- (1) formally adopt the amended conservation area boundaries for the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre and Victoria Street Conservation Areas, as shown in Appendices 1 and 3 of Report D61; and*
- (2) authorise the Interim Head of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, to amend any minor mapping errors prior to formal adoption.*

On 24 January 2012, the Working Party recommended approval of the proposed amended boundaries for consultation (Report C296 refers). This recommendation was agreed by Cabinet on 1 February 2012. Consultation took place between 29 February and 30 April 2012 inclusive.

There is no statutory requirement to carry out any public consultation before designating a conservation area or amending its boundary. Officers consider it 'good practice' however, and a means of raising public awareness of the conservation areas. Extensive public consultation, in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, therefore took place so as to coincide with the consultation period for the Vision 2031 documents.

All written replies received were included in the summaries of responses.

The Bury St Edmunds Town Centre Conservation Area boundary has been amended after consultation to follow the west side of St Andrew's Street South and part of St Andrew's Street North to include the Town Ditch.

The Bury St Edmunds Victoria Street Conservation Area boundary has been amended after consultation to include St Peter's Pit in Out Risbygate and remove the whole garden of 2 Westbury Avenue.

The following appendices were attached to Report D61:-

- Appendix 1: map showing the amended boundary for the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre Conservation Area;
- Appendix 2: summary of the responses received during the consultation and the changes made to the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre Conservation Area boundary;
- Appendix 3: map showing the amended boundary for the Bury St Edmunds Victoria Street Conservation Area; and
- Appendix 4: summary of the responses received during the consultation and the changes made to the Bury St Edmunds Victoria Street Conservation Area boundary.

2. Car Parking: Lawson Place and Southgate Community Centre (Report D64)

RECOMMENDED:- That

- (1) subject to consultation with Stakeholders, a Car Parking Scheme be adopted and implemented for the Lawson Place and Southgate Community Centre Car Parks which is based on:-***
 - (i) days and hours of operation - Mondays to Fridays (excluding public holidays) 8.00 am to 6.00 pm;***
 - (ii) free parking for up to 3 hours, Mondays to Fridays (excluding public holidays);***
 - (iii) for parking beyond 3 hours an excess charge be applied at a level as set by the Council's Off-Street Parking Places Order; and***
 - (iv) numbered parking permits for residents and the Southgate Community Partnership to be issued.***

and the costs of this be met from the Car Park Operating Account; and
- (2) the operation of the Scheme be reviewed after the period of one year, to include an assessment of whether there has been dispersal of parking to the surrounding residential areas.***

Ward Members together with the Southgate Community Partnership had raised concerns over shortage of parking at Lawson Place, Moreton Hall and Southgate Community Centre. The report put forward proposals to address the issue of long stay parking occurring to the detriment of other users:-

(i) **Lawson Place**

There is a well used car park immediately in front of the retail development, and despite the recent improvements in linking up both sections of the car park and creating 10 additional spaces, there are frequent occasions when there is insufficient space available. Similar issues also are occurring on the adjoining Community Centre car parking area.

It is believed that a number of cars are being parked free for long periods to enable owners to save money by sharing car journeys or commuting by bus into town or to the hospital.

(ii) **Southgate Community Centre**

Blair Estates, owners of the Hardwick Shopping Centre, have introduced a maximum 3 hour free stay for parking in the area within their control, which is immediately in front of the shopping parade. This has displaced long stay parking to the car park in front of Southgate Community Centre to the point when it is regularly full, thus denying users of the Centre the ability to park nearby. Inspections have revealed a number of vehicles had hospital workers' passes on the windscreens.

It is important that an element of control is introduced to both these areas in order to free up space for legitimate users of both the retail area at Lawson Place and Southgate Community Centre. This proposal is not viewed as a revenue generator.

The ideal scenario is to allow for free short term parking (up to 3 hours) for users and to introduce punitive charges (£10 as per Hardwick Car Park) to discourage long stay parking beyond that period. The parking regime will operate between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm on weekdays, reflecting the periods of high use.

Two possible alternatives of implementing this were considered by the Working Party:-

Option 1: Pay and Display

This will be as for all other car parks managed by the Council. In order to prevent abuse of the machines, i.e. frivolous issuing of tickets, there will need to be a token charge for up to 3 hours. However, the initial capital cost will be approximately £3,500 per site.

Option 2: Pay and Phone

Similar to Option 1, but instead of displaying tickets all payments will be made through *'Ringo'* (mobile phone) who is the Borough Council's current cashless parking partner. This is a low cost option of approximately £250 per site for signage.

Specifically in relation to the Southgate Car Park, numbered permits will be made available to the Southgate Community Partnership to pass to visitors who stay longer than 3 hours. Additionally, there are a small number of local residents who park in this area as there are no other parking facilities near their properties, and these will be issued permits.

Staff working in the retail units at Lawson Place will be encouraged to park across the road on the former Moreton Hall Community Centre site. Additionally, there will be liaison with the Community Association and an offer of services and solutions to address the issues in its car park.

Discussions will also be held with retailers at Lawson Place to examine if a landline phone could be made available for those who did not have a mobile or found them difficult to use. In addition, attendants from the Car Parking Service will visit the sites and enforce on a regular basis.

The cost of Option 1 is £7,000 plus consumables, and for Option 2 £250. In addition, for both options there will be the cost of a Traffic Regulation Order which amounted to £1,000. These will be funded from the Car Park Operating Account.

Neither Option 1 or 2 were agreed by the Working Party in their present form; however, the principle of introducing control over parking for these car parks was agreed. The view was that parking should be free for the first three hours and that the regulated hours for the car parks should be from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm. For parking over 3 hours the excess charge should be applied.