
CONSULTATION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM PARKING SUB-GROUP - AMENDMENT TO PARKING CHARGES IN PEEBLES PAY AND DISPLAY CAR PARKS

by Director of Environment and Infrastructure

September 2013

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This consultation is based on proposals made by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure to the Tweeddale Area Forum on 11th September 2013. The proposals were to amend the charges to Peebles Off-Street Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to introduce an initial "free period" in all Peebles' Pay and Display car parks and a number of other changes to the operation of the car parks.**
- 1.2 On 6 March 2013, on the subject of a report on parking management in Peebles by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure, Tweeddale Area Forum:-
- (a) **NOTED** the various options available to control off-street parking
 - (b) **DECIDED:-**
 - (i) to continue investigation by undertaking a parking survey; and
 - (ii) to form a sub-group of the Tweeddale Area Forum and, in light of the findings of a parking survey, discuss the various options and recommend a preferred option at a later meeting of the Tweeddale Area Forum.
 - (c) **AGREED** that Councillors Bell, Buckingham, Logan and Community Councillor Stewart be appointed to form the Sub-Group.
- 1.3 The sub-group met on five occasions between 14 March and 8 August 2013 and their recommendation to the Tweeddale Area Forum was that the Tweeddale Area Forum approved the recommendations as summarised in 2.1 below.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS OF PARKING SUB-GROUP

2.1 The Parking Sub-group, through The Director of Environment and Infrastructure made the following recommendations to the Tweeddale Area Forum on 11th September:-

- (a) **Greenside Car Park and Swimming Pool Car Park should have 4 hours free parking then charge on Monday to Saturday. The following charges are recommended based on the existing charges and removal of charges for first 4**

hours:-

up to 4 hours	Free
up to 5 hours	£1.60
up to 6 hours	£1.80
up to 7 hours	£2.20
up to 8 hours	£2.40
over 8 hours	£2.80

- (b) Edinburgh Road Car Park should have 2 hours free parking then charge on Saturday only. The following charges are recommended based on the existing charges and removal of charges for first 2 hours:-**

up to 2 hours	Free
up to 3 hours	£0.90
up to 4 hours	£1.20
up to 5 hours	£1.60
up to 6 hours	£1.80
up to 7 hours	£2.20
up to 8 hours	£2.40
over 8 hours	£2.80

- (c) costs of £1100+VAT to facilitate the changes are met from net income from the Peebles Pay and Display Scheme**
- (d) a one year operational trial period is undertaken to be combined with a consultation survey undertaken by the Environment & Infrastructure, Network Section; and**
- (e) that the penalty charges should be amended to £40 or £20 for early payment. (currently £20 or £10 for early payment)**
- (f) with regard to buses using the Edinburgh Road Car Park 0-3 hours would be free with a penalty of £40 for any buses that exceeded the existing 3 hour limit; and**
- (g) this is kept under review to ensure that this resolved the problem of extended parking by buses and that appropriate changes be made to the signage in the car parks.**

2.2 On 11th September 2013, the Tweeddale Area Forum discussed these recommendations and agreed:-

that a further 2 items be added as below and that the Tweeddale Area Forum considers this issue at their next meeting in November 2013 following consultation outlined in (i) below:-

- (h) Improve direction signs to all car parks**
- (i) Carry out a consultation on proposals 2.1(a) to 2.2(h) above**

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 On 6 March 2013, Tweeddale Area Forum:-

- noted the various options available to control off-street parking
- agreed to continue investigation by undertaking a parking survey
- agreed to form a sub-group of the Tweeddale Area Forum discuss the various options and recommend a preferred option at a later meeting of the Tweeddale Area Forum; and
- agreed that Councillors Bell, Buckingham, Logan and Community Councillor Stewart be appointed to form the Sub-Group.

3.2 Key outcomes and Actions from Sub-Group Meetings

3.2.1 Meeting of 14 March 2013

It was agreed that the following would be undertaken as the remit of the Sub-Group:-

- design a parking and questionnaire survey
- carry out the surveys
- evaluate the survey results
- recommend action to the Tweeddale Area Forum

3.2.2 Meeting of 25 April 2013

- Welcomed Mr Murdoch Macdonald as a Member of the Sub-Group representing Peebles Traders
- the surveys would take place on:-
 - i) a Tuesday between the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 4.00p.m. and
 - ii) a Saturday between the hours of 9.00am to 5.00p.m.
- agreed the wording of the questionnaire

3.2.3 Meeting of 12 June 2013

3.2.3.1 The Team Leader, Traffic & Road Safety presented results from the Parking and Questionnaire Surveys and following discussion with Members of the Sub-Group it was agreed that:-

- Members pass their observations/comments to the Team Leader by 3 July 2013, to enable him to bring back some options for discussion on analysis of the data, for consideration at the next meeting; and
- the Team Leader would provide information on buses using the car parks for consideration at the next meeting

3.2.3.2 Results and Discussion of Parking Survey
The Parking Survey was carried over two days Saturday 18th May and Tuesday 21st May 2013. The surveys were conducted by the "parking beat" method where regular visits were made to the town's four main car parks (Edinburgh Road, Greenside, Swimming Pool and Kingsmeadows) and town centre streets. The surveyors recorded vehicle registration marks and this enabled duration of stay and usage levels to be established. The presentation of the main findings of the surveys which was

given to Sub-group members on 12th June 2103 is attached in Appendix A. The surveys revealed the following main points:-

- Greenside Car Park is at or near capacity (confirmed by data gathered from regular visits by Parking Attendants)
- Kingsmeadows Car Park is under pressure on Saturdays
- There is extensive abuse of the on-street limited waiting areas

3.2.3.3 Results and Discussion of Questionnaire Survey

The Questionnaire Survey was carried out over three days Tuesday 21st May, Wednesday 22nd May and Saturday 25th May. The surveys were undertaken by questioning users of town's four main car parks (Edinburgh Road, Greenside, Swimming Pool and Kingsmeadows). The main findings as presented to Sub-group members are included in Appendix A. The survey revealed the following main points

- In response to the question "Would you continue to use the car parks if the charges were applied on weekdays as well as Saturdays?", of those questioned 57% said yes, 36 said no and 7% said maybe
- In response to the question put to regular users of the car parks "can you find a space easily?", of those questioned 89% said yes

3.2.3.4 The points highlighted in 3.2.3.2 and 3.2.3.3 above are given as a flavour of the findings and as discussed above, the main findings of the Parking Surveys and Questionnaire Surveys are attached in Appendix A. This is in the form of a printout of a Powerpoint presentation and gives comprehensive information of the usage of car parks and on-street locations in Peebles and includes a summary of slides from the study plus commentaries as well as two slides of analysis from Peebles & District Community Council. Consultees are asked to pay particular attention to examination of the data presented in these slides.

3.2.4 **Parking Strategy**

3.2.4.1 In examining data from the Parking and Questionnaire surveys as well as data regularly collected from car park visits, Scottish Borders Council's Parking Strategy was used to determine the best course of action to address the issues highlighted by the data.

3.2.4.2 In the main, off-street parking has peaks and troughs of supply and demand and measures SM4 and SM10 in the Parking Strategy are seen as appropriate to address these issues. These measures are outlined below:-

SM4 Improve signposting of car parks to encourage the use of all sites Increased signage for Kingsmeadows Car Park may help distribute the parking more evenly throughout the town during weekdays, however, full awareness of this car park appears to already exist due to its heavy usage on a Saturday when parking space charging is operational in other car parks.

SM10 Review existing parking charges and set levels so as to manage demand

The introduction of weekday parking charges in Edinburgh Road, Greenside and the Swimming Pool Car Parks would help manage demand and free up space.

- 3.2.4.3 Although an issue highlighted in the parking survey, long-stay parking in the limited waiting on-street parking areas, was seen as enforcement rather than a need to change the time limit. The appropriate Parking Strategy Measure is:-

SM26 Improve parking enforcement

Police should be asked if they are able to increase the level of enforcement within the town.

3.2.5 Meeting of 24 July 2013

Following close examination of the data and application of the Council's Parking Strategy, the Team Leader, Traffic & Road Safety presented Parking Scenarios based on Members' views and discussions at the meeting of 12 June 2013.

The Scenarios were:-

Scenario 1 – All week charging with existing tariffs in all existing Pay and Display Car Parks.

Scenario 2 – All week charging with amended tariffs and/or times in all existing Pay and Display Car Parks.

Scenario 3 – Targeted charging with existing tariffs to address particular supply versus demand issues.

Discussion of Scenarios

SCENARIO 1 - ALL- WEEK CHARGING with existing tariffs in all existing Pay & Display car parks

Effect

- Additional pressure on on-street parking leading to even less turnover especially in unrestricted areas
- Most severe effect in residential areas
- Market day problems exacerbated

SCENARIO 2 - ALL- WEEK CHARGING with amended tariffs and/or times in all existing Pay & Display car parks

Effect (as in Scenario 1 but to a lesser degree?)

- Additional pressure on on-street parking leading to even less turnover especially in unrestricted areas
- Most severe effect in residential areas
- Market day problems exacerbated

SCENARIO 3 - TARGETTED CHARGING with existing tariffs to address particular supply versus demand issues

From Surveys it would appear that:-

- Greenside Car Park is at or near capacity for most of all days
- Kingsmeadows Car Park is under pressure on Saturdays

Consider:-

- Introducing weekday charges in Greenside Car Park

- Introducing Saturday charges Kingsmeadows Car Park

Effect (as in Scenario 1 but to a much lesser degree?)

- Additional pressure on localised on-street parking leading to even less turnover especially in unrestricted areas
- Most severe effect in residential areas

The Team Leader recommended that targetted charging and increased signage should be considered as follows:- The introduction of weekday parking charges in Greenside Car Park would help manage demand and free up space. Although this measure had potential to move parking into residential areas and side streets it could be introduced on a trial basis. The parking equipment was in place and needed very little done to bring it into effect. This measure should then be assessed to decide if it should be introduced on a permanent basis and/or whether weekday charges should be considered to some degree in other Pay and Display Car Parks in the town. The introduction of off-street parking charges for Kingsmeadows Car Park on Saturdays would help distribute parking more evenly throughout the town. This measure would need the introduction of a Pay and Display machine and a change to the current traffic regulation order (TRO). There would be no need to purchase a Pay and Display machine as a spare machine was available but the procedures to introduce a TRO would take a number of months. If this recommendation was adopted, it was suggested that it be introduced at the same time as any trial of weekday charges in Greenside Car Park. Increased signage including reference to Kingsmeadows Car Park might help distribute the parking more evenly throughout the town during weekdays. Members discussed the various options. The Team Leader advised that there would be a cost of £75 for each parking ticket machine which required adjustment. It was noted that a trial "pay by phone" system would soon be operational within Scottish Borders Council's Car Parks.

Following discussion, the Parking Sub-group agreed that an approach based on **Scenario 3** would be the appropriate way forward and that it should be remitted to the Team Leader Road Safety & Traffic Management to bring a report to the next meeting with a recommendation to Tweeddale Area Forum on the following proposals:-

- a) Greenside Car Park and Swimming Pool Car Park - 4 hours free parking then charge on Monday to Saturday;
- b) Edinburgh Road Car Park – 2 hours free parking then charge on Saturday;
- c) the report should include details of operation costs, increased signage, timescales etc. for a one year operational trial period;
- d) one year operational trial period to be combined with a consultation survey undertaken by the Tweeddale Area Forum; and
- e) penalty charges would remain the same with a review in 12 months.

3.2.6 Meeting of 8 August 2013

The Parking Sub-Group considered responses from the Team Leader, Road Safety & Traffic Manager. His response is below each point as appropriate:-

- a) **Greenside Car Park and Swimming Pool Car Park - 4 hours free parking then charge – Monday to Saturday; -**
There are no operational issues with this proposal
- b) **Edinburgh Road Car Park – 2 hours free parking then charge – Saturday; -** There are no operational issues with this proposal
- c) **Report should include details of operation costs, increased signage, timescales etc. for a one year operational trial period; -** Costs are minimal and relate to minor sign amendments and software changes to parking machines
- d) **One year operational trial period to be combined with a consultation survey undertaken by the Tweeddale Area Forum**

Following discussion, the Parking Sub-group agreed that The Director of Environment & Infrastructure should bring a report to the next meeting with a recommendation to Tweeddale Area Forum on the recommendations as outlined in 2.1 in this document.

4 CONCLUDING STATEMENT

- 4.1 Comments on the proposals as outlined in 2.1 (a) to (g) and 2.2 (h) are to be invited and the closing date for comments is Friday 18th October 2013

Approved by

Director of Environment & Infrastructure Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference:

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PEEBLES PARKING

RESULTS OF PARKING & QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEYS

TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM

Sub-group Meeting

12 June 2013