



CAR PARK MANAGEMENT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 66/21

9 AUGUST 2021

The purpose of this Report is to record the outcomes from the recent discussions with the Isle of Wight Council on the future of the management of the town's car parks and ask Members to agree a response to them.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The proposal for the Town Council to provide local management of the town's eight car parks began at its meeting of 12 November 2012 with Minute 162/12's authorisation of the Town Clerk to apply for a grant of £9,020 from Social Investment Business to fund a consultant to advise on the proposal's viability and potential advantages.
- b) That application was successful and Parkspace's Andy Stafford was commissioned for the work and he started on it on 14 January 2013.
- c) His Report was shared with Town Councillors at an informal meeting on 14 March 2013 and adopted at the following meeting of the full Council of 18 March when Minute 46/13 resolved to submit a formal application for the car parks' local manage
- d) Minute 136/13 of the Town Council meeting of 9 September 2013 agreed the submission to the Isle of Wight Council of an Expression of Interest in taking over the management of the town's car parks
- e) That was refused by letter dated 13 January 2014 but the apparent failure to comply with the specified Grounds for Refusal resulted in a challenge about the legality of the decision on the legal advice and Barrister's opinion expressed in a letter from Anthony Collins Solicitors to the Isle of Wight Council dated 10 April 2014
- f) Its response was to invite the Deputy Mayor and Clerk to a meeting on 14 April with the Isle of Wight Council's then Managing Director to see if a compromise was available: that became the agreement for the Town Council to manage its current four car parks from 1 August 2015.
- g) Following three years of demonstrating the Town Council's ability to manage car parks, its meeting of 10 December 2018 agreed by Minute 145/18 to submit a Business Case for taking on the management of all of the town's car parks; that Business Case has yet to receive a response.
- h) Minute 25/21 of the Town Council meeting of 8 March 2021 resolved to return to the Localism Act 2011's Community Right to Challenge and a further Expression of Interest that was submitted to the Isle of Wight Council on 21 April and refused by letter dated 18 June.

2) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- a) The conclusions of the Town Council's legal advice from Anthony Collins Solicitors on that refusal was that although the *letter does not specify the ground(s) on which Ventnor's Expression of Interest is rejected, breaching section 83(11) of the Localism Act 2011... we recommend that a letter is sent to the Council to express your disappointment at their rejection, the possibility of a challenge and propose the alternative solution of a further agreement.*
- b) The opportunity to consider an *alternative solution* came in the approach from the new Portfolio Holder for Highways, PFI, Transport and Infrastructure Phil Jordan offering discussions with relevant officers as part of the new Administration's commitment to work with Town and Parish Councils.
- c) He arranged a virtual meeting for the Mayor and me with him, Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods Alex Minns, Strategic Manager – Commercial Services Sean Newton and Assistant Director of Regeneration Ashley Curzon on 20 July to discuss both the management of the town's car parks and the future proposals for Ventnor Haven.

-
- d) The Isle of Wight Council officers view was that their first priority was to fulfil the internal budget for income from parking - £2.8 million in 2020/21 – and that guaranteeing that prevented agreement with Ventnor Town Council managing all its own car parks as that would establish a precedent that would be likely to be followed by other Island Towns.
 - e) However, it was agreed to hold a further virtual meeting on car park management alone and the Mayor and I were invited to follow that up on 28 July with Alex Minns, Sean Newton and Parking Services Manager Mark Downer.
 - f) In advance of that meeting I provided the officers with two items of related information:
 - o a copy of the Executive Summary of Parkspace Consulting’s 2014 Report that provides a list of the adaptations to the town’s car parks that would be desirable and possible only if the Town Council controlled all eight car parks; that document is attached to this Report; and
 - o a reminder of *Primary Recommendation PR1* of their recently adopted 475-page Parking Delivery Plan based on their consultant’s Report that states:
It is recommended that reviews of the parking provision in key areas throughout the island are required to develop more detailed local parking strategies, particularly in the main towns. These strategies should include proposals for the management of all types of parking (i.e. not only parking for cars but also for cycles, motorcycles, commercial vehicles and coaches).
The Council will work with the local councils to review parking activities, particularly within the main towns on the island. Evidence of local parking supply and demand is required to complete detailed strategies for individual towns and other local areas.
 - g) The meeting concluded with what I took to be the following commitments:
 - i) to provide a written response to the 2018 Business Case for the Town Council’s management of all the town’s car parks;
 - ii) to assess which of the advantages listed in the Parkspace Consulting Report might be deliverable within the Isle of Wight Council’s continuing management of the four larger car parks; and
 - iii) to make a new proposal for the Isle of Wight Council’s charge for the four parking bays required for the new Public Toilet in time for this Town Council meeting.

3) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to determine its response to these recent developments.



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

LOCAL CAR PARK MANAGEMENT

JULY 2021

In 2013 Ventnor Town Council secured external funding for a Consultant to advise it on the possibility of it managing the town's eight car parks and the potential contribution to the town's regeneration that would flow from that.

The chosen Consultant was Andy Stafford of Parkspace Consulting. His full Report is available [here](#) and this is its Executive Summary:

The following document outlines the current arrangements for parking within the town and proposes a number of initiatives intended to be of benefit to the town both in terms of bringing local people in to the town centre and developing a sustainable source of income for future projects that will be of benefit for all residents of Ventnor.

Our key proposals, as detailed within this document are as follows:

- The implementation of a VTC run car park operation, managed within Ventnor on behalf of Ventnor residents and visitors
 - Introduction of a Ventnor Residents Discount Parking Scheme (to include people working within Ventnor)
 - A revised approach to the current car parking tariffs to ensure a fairer approach to short term parking
 - The introduction of Peak and Off-Peak Season parking tariffs
 - The introduction of a Residents "park for free" day on a Wednesday
 - Improved information provision within the car parks including a comprehensive re-signing of all car parks
 - A review of all roadside directional signage to improve visitor awareness of carpark locations (and access to attractions / facilities)
 - Introduction of a Ventnor Resident Parking Permit at a significantly reduced rate compared to the IoWC permit
 - Introduction of a Hotel Guest / Tourist discounted parking scheme
 - Sustainable revenue generation from parking invested back into the town
-