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Late Information for 9th September 2008 Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Members' comments on Residents Parking Schemes

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Scrutiny Board City Development on 9th September 2008

Inquiry Residents Parking Schemes – Session 1

The following comments have been received from Elected Members to date. It is understood that Members of the Labour Group have been asked to delay their comments until their group has had time to discuss the matter.

Headingley Ward - Councillor James Monaghan

I think the methodology for introducing TRO's, especially RPZ's, is very frustrating. So much time is given over to dealing with objectors and addressing or disproving their concerns. On recent schemes in Headingley it has dragged schemes on for many months, which is very annoying to councillors and residents who can't understand the delay. Many of the complaints are from the very commuters the RPZ is trying to deal with!

On a scheme in the Granby's, which was finally implemented last year we had the above frustrations followed by the TRO being in place, but not being enforced until the signs were up on the streets. The signs couldn't be ordered until the TRO was approved and then we had to wait 6 weeks to get the signs ordered in. Then additional time to get them installed. Surely this could all have been booked and scheduled earlier in the process.

On a separate note residents on the Granby's would be happy to trial a progressively priced scheme for RPZ charging as long as the first car pass was free.

Hyde Park and Woodhouse Ward – Councillor Penny Ewens

Paying themselves to have it set up: I think a lot of people would be very opposed - they already believe they have the whole road as a rightful place to park anyway! paying for permits would need consultation.

If they paid for them themselves I would expect them to have the same legal standing and protection as the ones we set up.

Needs to consider knock-on effects when commuters/students are moved out!

Otley & Yeadon Ward – Councillor Colin Campbell

I think the Council should have a very clear policy on where and when schemes can be put in and what those schemes are designed to do.

At the moment there seems to be no uniformity in provision, i.e. people who shout loudest, have Councillors with influence in the relevant department seem to get schemes. I also think that many people ask for schemes for the wrong reason believing they have a right to park their car outside their house and that a scheme will stop anyone else parking there. I also think that schemes are not always the appropriate solution. I know Cllr Pryke did not want a list of parking problems but in Yeadon there is a problem with people parking, going to the airport and having a fortnights holiday then returning to their car. This is irritating to residents of effected streets who want residents parking permits. However waiting restrictions, (20 out of 24 hours) are much more effective in dealing with this.

Similarly we could have partial schemes where there is a problem for only part of the day, e.g. 6-00pm to 6-00 am where residents are out at work all day but have problems with evening parking.

Schemes should be cost neutral to the Council. People who do not have a scheme resent paying the costs for people who do. Providing a scheme meets agreed criteria there is no reason why residents should not fast track it by paying for it setting up, after all they are getting a parking space which has a value.

New schemes should be measured against the car parking reviews which are currently taking place.

Costs could be offset by adverts on the permits. (insurance companies).

This may be heresy but we should also have a mechanism for removing schemes. If it was put in place to deal with parking from a factory which closes we should ask if it is still needed.

Copy of the email sent to all Members of Council on the 15th August 2008 inviting comments

“Dear Councillor

The Chair of Scrutiny Board (City Development), Cllr Ralph Pryke has asked me to write to all Members of Council concerning residents parking schemes.

The Board has recently agreed terms of reference for an inquiry which is to look specifically at the effectiveness of current arrangements for establishing resident parking schemes, the practicality of allowing residents to opt to pay for parking schemes themselves rather than wait for the Council to establish them when funding becomes available, how revenue might be raised to offset the cost to residents and how enforcement would be carried out. The Board will also consider the viability of any other proposals to reduce and speed up the process of establishing resident parking schemes.

The Chair would like any comments you might wish to make concerning the current waiting time that exists for the introduction of resident parking schemes by the Council. It would be helpful to the Board's discussions if you could let me know of any particular problems with regard to delays in introducing such schemes in your Ward and what you think about introducing an option that allows residents to pay for a resident parking scheme rather than wait for Council funding as a means to speed up applications. The Board might like to invite one or two residents to attend as witnesses and a contact number or email address would be useful.

Cllr Pryke has asked me to stress that he does not want to hear about general parking problems in your ward no matter how valid as this is not what the inquiry is about.

I would be grateful if you could let me have any comments you would like to make by noon on the 1st September 2008.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

*Richard Mills
Principal Scrutiny Adviser”*