
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	4TH MAY 2004	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Peter Woolrich Ext 5726	DOC: Community Strategy.doc
SUBJECT:	CAR PARKING STUDY – PROGRESS REPORT	REF: myfiles/committees/ComScrutiny/com munitystrategy.doc
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: G

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 Member's views are requested

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To report back on the initial consultations on the proposed car parking study.

3.0 Content

- 3.1 At its meeting on 16th February the Committee considered an initial scoping report on car parking in the District with a view to setting the terms of reference for the study. (Minute CYS/42 refers)
- 3.2 The Committee noted that it would be useful to undertake a survey on the usage of the urban core car parks as the last survey was carried out in 1999 and the County Council had offered the use of their Survey Numerator staff. It was also agreed that an audit of the levels of security and safety of the urban car parks would be useful. It was agreed to write to other Councils in Derbyshire to establish what action, if any they were undertaking with regard to their Councils and to invite private sector car parking operators in the town centre to attend the next meeting to take part in the review. Parish Councils and Area Meetings were also to be included in the consultation process for this Review.
- 3.3 Information from some local councils and private sector operatives is awaited. The attached table outlines that information received to date. However it is noted that all adjoining authorities now have car parking charging and enforcement regimes. Most of the Derbyshire authorities (Bolsover and North East Derbyshire excepted) also charge and the Cipfa returns for 2002/03 indicated that their budgets showed an operational surplus. It should also be noted that even those authorities who continue to operate free parking, employ enforcement staff.

- 3.4 East Staffordshire Borough Council (ESBC) and North West Leicestershire District Council (NWLDC) have recently undertaken reviews of car parking in their respective Districts. ESBC Scrutiny Panel's wide ranging review encompassed the Council's policy role, administration of charges and fines, enforcement, quality and appearance, costs, and concluded with a series of recommendations to improve the service. NWLDC, following a feasibility study undertaken by District Audit, has since introduced charging regimes in Coalville.
- 3.5 A range of comments have been made by several Parish Councils (Ticknall, Etwall and Melbourne in particular), highlighting particular problems relative to their own localities although common is the general shortage of off street places, indiscriminate on street parking, policing of disabled spaces, whilst they are generally not in favour of imposing charging regimes. Ticknall Parish Council has specifically requested an additional/extension to the existing village hall car park to cater for the increasing numbers of weekend visitors to the village, which is exacerbating existing on street parking problems.
- 3.6 The Crime & Disorder Partnership's Liaison Officer has carried out a safety audit of the main town centre car parks and her conclusions are attached in Annexe A.
- 3.7 The responsibility for the Council's car parks falls within the remit of the Council's Environmental and Development Services Committee (EDS15). Maintenance responsibility is divided between the Direct Services Manager and the Facilities and Development Manager, acting under the Deputy Chief Executive. However, there is no one within the Council who has overall responsibility for strategic car parking issues, as the Planning Services Manager only deals with planning policies related to new development. This may change under the proposed restructuring with the merging of the cleansing and enforcement functions in the Environmental Services Directorate which provides the opportunity for a more direct link between operational and strategic matters.
- 3.8 The main points arising may be summarised as :
- Information on car park usage is out of date and the County Council have offered their services to help with any new survey
 - All the adjacent local authorities and most of the Derbyshire Council's operate charging regimes and had operational surpluses for 2002/03
 - If consideration is to be given to introducing charging regimes then consideration must be given to on street parking at the same time along with aspects of decriminalisation
 - The restricted car parks (1999 survey and present observations) appear to be very well used but experience problems of abuse at peak times as there is no enforcement of the restrictions.
 - Certain areas of on street parking (Market Street, West Street, Midland Road) are also abused with no enforcement being undertaken.
 - Some Parishes have indicated specific problems which they wish to see addressed
 - Car park safety audit undertaken and recommendations require action
 - No officer with overall responsibility for strategic car parking matters.

Members may wish to refer these matters to the Policy Committee for consideration.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None arising from this report

5.0 Background Papers

Community Scrutiny Reports and responses to Consultation letter of 9-01-04/letters to Councils and private operators

Table 1 Car Parking in Derbyshire March 2004

Authority	No of Car Parks	No of Spaces	Charges	No of Staff (inspection and enforcement)	Surplus/Deficit Cipfa returns 2002/03	Decriminalisation used	On Street Parking	Resident Parking
District of Bolsover	37	1056	Free	3	-£48,000	not considered	none	none
Chesterfield Borough Council	18	2607		12	£674,000	recently approached by the County Council		230
Derbyshire Dales District Council	44	3184	70p to £4	7	£603,613	No decision has been made at this time	none	Resident permits £40
Erewash Borough Council	na	na	na	na	£291,000			
Amber Valley Borough Council	47	2477	20p to £1.50	7	£172,000	not considered	£26.00pa permits	Free resident permits
Derby City Council	12	2492	60p to £9	19	£1,395,000	looking to apply in next 2 years	pay & display city centre	7 areas
North East Derbyshire District	17	748	Free	2	-£70,000	not considered	none	none
South Derbyshire District Council	10	594	Free	0	-£56,000	not considered	none	none
North West Leicestershire #	na	na	na	na	-£128,000			
East Staffordshire Borough Council	14	3081		8 (+ management)	£811,000	under consideration in the County	under review	under review

have since introduced charges

Town car parks, Swadlincote

I attended the following car parks in my role as a crime reduction officer and have the following comments and recommendations to make:

1. Leisure centre car park

The bushes on the perimeter need to be trimmed down as there is no natural surveillance and the bushes are causing hiding places for thieves to be able to carry out their crime unseen. All planting of bushes should be of low level. Centre of the Car Park planting consider thorny berberis bushes to prevent people hiding in these areas.

All trees should be pruned to a minimum height of 2m, thereby maintaining a clear vision around the car park. Trees when fully grown should not mask light columns, CCTV cameras or become climbing aids.

There is CCTV on the car park but this is due to be upgraded and will improve security.

The adjacent car park that is used for council employees, again the bushes need to be trimmed down.

2. Collingwood Car Park, Market St, Swadlincote

There are no bushes here and there is a level of lighting, this is to be subjected in the near future of having CCTV installed and will improve the security and reduce the fear of crime.

3. Bus Station Car Park, Civic Way,

There is due to be CCTV installed in the car park in the near future, The car park is well lit with traffic calming measures already installed.

4. Rink Drive Car Park.

This car park would benefit from CCTV installation. There is a good level of lighting and good natural surveillance.

5. Car Park rear of Lentons, off Civic Way, Swadlincote

The are below the recycling bins. There is a small-secluded corner, which is very dark and could be used to hide in. This area would benefit additional lighting. The car park would benefit from installation of CCTV.

Eileen Banton Sgt 1749
Crime reduction officer/Partnership Liaison Officer

REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COPMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	4 TH MAY 2004	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Peter Woolrich Ext 5726	DOC: Community Strategy.doc
SUBJECT:	SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY - UPDATE ON PROGRESS	REF: myfiles/committees/ComScrinity/com munitystrategy.doc
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: G

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Members of progress in the development of the South Derbyshire Community Strategy.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Members note progress.

3.0 Detail

3.1 As members will know, the Local Government Act 2000 gives the Council new powers to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well being of the district. This is linked to the duty to prepare a Community Strategy with a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and to fully involve local people in the process.

3.2 At your meeting on 22nd March 2004 (minute CYS/49 refers), it was reported that the Board had held a 'Visioning Event' to determine an overall vision for the Partnership, the possible themes for the Community Strategy and some governing principles. This was held at the Bretby Conference Centre on 28th January 2004.

3.3 The results of these exercises together with a suggested programme for preparing the Community Strategy were considered at the SDLSP Board meeting on 18th March. The Board agreed that the Vision would be :

'Working together for a better South Derbyshire'

3.4 The Board also agreed the main themes for the strategy together with a lead Board member. These are :

- Safer Communities -

Tony Hurrell (Derbyshire Constabulary)

- Healthier Communities - Nina Ennis (Derbys Dales & South Derbys PCT)
- A Vibrant Economy - Sharon Forton (Derbyshire Chamber & Business Link)
- A Sustainable Environment - Susan Bell (The National Forest Company)
- Lifelong Learning and Culture - Paul McGregor (Derbyshire Learning Partnership)
- Creating Opportunities for All - Jo Smith South Derbys CVS)

3.5 A programme for the preparation of the Community Strategy was also endorsed and is attached as Annexe A. A series of thematic meetings is presently underway to determine baseline positions, the emergent issues, and suggestions for action which will form the basis for the draft strategy which is programmed to be launched at the Forum event in June. A verbal update of those meetings which have taken place will be given at the meeting.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 Background Papers

Reports to Council

Minutes of the South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership Board

ANNEXE A

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY PROGRAMME



