



REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:	6
DATE OF MEETING:	19 AUGUST 2004	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	OPEN:	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	CLLR K HARRINGTON (CHAIR - COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE)	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	CAR PARKING STUDY	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	

1.0 Recommendation

1.1 It is recommended that:

- The initial findings of the car parking study be noted
- The Committee addresses the recommendations arising from the safety audit of town centre car parks at the earliest opportunity
- The Committee considers whether and how it would like to progress a more fundamental review of parking

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Outline the initial findings of a study of car parking undertaken by the Community Scrutiny Committee
- Seek the views of the Committee on how it would like to progress this issue

3.0 Detail

Background to the Study

- 3.1 In December 2003, the Community Scrutiny Committee decided to undertake a study of car parking in the district.
- 3.2 In order to 'scope' the study, a number of internal and external 'stakeholders' were asked for their views on range of issues including levels of provision, sustainable transport, community safety, links to the local economy, charging regimes, use by people with disabilities etc. The stakeholders comprised local businesses, Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce, SLM, Market Initiatives, Crime and Disorder Partnership, Parish Councils, Derbyshire Association of Local Councils, Derbyshire County Council, neighbouring Councils and Council members and managers,
- 3.3 The outcome of this consultation exercise was considered by the Community Scrutiny on 16 February 2004. At this meeting, the Committee also received contributions from the Area Traffic and Safety Officer (Derbyshire County Council), and the Police. (Minute Number CYS/42 contains further details.)
- 3.4 In May, the Committee received further information about the charging/enforcement regimes operated by neighbouring Councils along with the results of a safety audit of town centre car parks which has been undertaken by the Crime and Disorder Partnership Police Liaison Officer. (Minute Number CYC/53 refers.)

Initial Findings

- 3.5 Work to date has highlighted a number of issues. These include:
 - Information on car park usage is out of date and does not include the views of car park users (especially older people and people with disabilities). Derbyshire County Council has offered to help with a new survey, the cost of which would have to be met by the District Council
 - Neighbouring Councils operate a variety of charging and enforcement regimes. Arrangements for enforcing on street and off street parking arrangements need to be 'joined up', if they are going to be effective.
 - The prevalence of local parking issues in various parts of the district (identified by Members and Parish Councils). These focus on the general shortage of off street places (especially for visitors to local attractions), indiscriminate on street parking, parking near to schools and the abuse of spaces allocated to people with disabilities. In Swadlincote, the need for more spaces for Leisure Centre users was also highlighted.
 - The need to link consideration of parking issues to the wider policy agenda - sustainability, public transport, land use planning, economic regeneration etc

- The need to address the recommendations in the safety audit of town centre car parks. A copy of the audit is attached at Annexe A.
- There is a lack of clarity at officer level over responsibility for the strategic aspects of parking matters.

Meeting with the Vice Chair

- 3.6 The Community Scrutiny Committee met with the Vice Chair of this Committee to discuss the study and the main issues arising on 26 July 2004.
- 3.7 This report represents the agreed outcome of that meeting.

Conclusions

- 3.9 Parking is an important issue, which impacts on everyone who lives and works in South Derbyshire or who visits the area's attractions.
- 3.10 It is evident from the work that already been undertaken that the issue has a number of aspects, many of which are inter related.
- 3.11 A fundamental review is likely to require significant (and may be additional) resources, especially if it is supported by detailed survey work and in depth consultation with local people, businesses and public bodies like the Police and the County Council. This means that it is necessary to have, at the outset, a clear understanding of the scope of the review, the review process and the expected outcomes.
- 3.12 The Community Scrutiny Committee recognises that responsibility for car parking rests with this Committee and does not wish to prescribe a way forward. However, if assistance is required from Scrutiny, there will need to be an agreed project brief.
- 3.13 There is a need to address the recommendations from the safety audit of town centre parks at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.14 Finally, the Committee would like to thank Cllr Taylor for attending the meeting and for his helpful contribution

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 These will need to be determined in the light of a decision on how the Committee wishes to proceed.

