

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2016
title: CAR PARK GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP – DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: ADRIAN HARPER – HEAD OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To look at current issues affecting parking in the borough.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
 - Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
 - Corporate Priorities – To ensure best use of council resources in the provision of parking.

2 BACKGROUND

Since the removal of Downham, Ribble Valley Borough Council now manages 16 car parks throughout the borough, some of them are owned outright and others are leased to the Council. All the leased car parks are now on a pay and display basis.

3 ISSUES

Peel Street Car Park:

3. In November 2015 Lidl made an offer to purchase Peel Street car park to allow for a proposed extension to the store on Shawbridge Street. This was agreed at Policy and Finance Committee 26/01/16 Minute 572.

Since the offer was made Lidl have been slow to progress the sale. However, they have restarted the process and their solicitors are in contact with the Council.

Pay By Phone:

- 3.2 The option of Pay By Phone was introduced in the Councils car parks at the end of April 2016 offering another choice to drivers to paying by cash. The scheme at the time of writing has been used 468 times with a value of £1,053.

The split by car park is as follows:

TOWN	CAR PARK	Virtual Tickets	PAYMENTS £
Clitheroe	Chester Avenue	57	133.80
	Edisford Road	61	97.80
	Lowergate	227	467.60
	Market	42	125.80
	Mitchell Street	4	7.40
	Railway View	73	215.70
	Whalley Road	1	1.30
Longridge	Barclay Road	2	3.30
Ribchester	Pope Croft	1	1.20

From the monthly reports it can be seen that more people per month are using the facility and there are numerous repeat users.

For Members' information both Burnley and Preston are currently considering the same system and provider with Chorley also showing an interest.

Railway View Car Park Clitheroe:

- 3.3 The recent works on Railway View Avenue have had an effect on the car park reducing the income considerably.

The estimated loss of income for the gas works is £1652. It is proposed that a claim for this loss will be submitted to the contractor Balfour Beatty but its success is unlikely.

Furthermore, there has been a separate loss of approximately £500 for the closure of the car park the weekend of 1st October when LCC closed the car park for resurfacing Railway View Avenue.

Shoppers Car Parks at Christmas:

- 3.4 To support the Retail Sector and the local economy the Council has offered free parking in town centre car parks on Saturdays in December for Clitheroe and Longridge.

It is proposed this year that the Council offers free parking on the following Saturdays:

3 December;
10 December;
17 December;
24 December.

Parking General:

- 3.5 The Car Park Working Group are continuing to investigate options of increasing the number of car parks in Clitheroe and other associated issues.

4. **RISK ASSESSMENTS**

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

Resources – There will be a loss of income for the Christmas car parking proposal

Technical, Environmental and Legal – None

Political – The Christmas parking proposal shows a political support to the Retail Sector and local economy

Reputation – Free Christmas parking will promote the reputation of the Council

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Note the information relating to Peel Street Car Park, Railway Avenue Car Park and the newly introduced Car Park Pay by Phone system
- 5.2 Continue to allow free town centre parking on the Saturdays leading up to Christmas as in the previous years
- 5.3 Continue to investigate areas for new parking through the car park working group.

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REF: Adrian Harper Community Services 11.10.16