

ORIGINATING DIVISION: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
CAPITA

REPORT TO: BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

DATE: 16th February 2017

TITLE: OBJECTION – Proposed Pay and Display Parking
Atlas Road and Railway Road Car parks

WARD: Sunnyhurst

COUNCILLORS: Peter Hollings
Dave Smith
Brian Taylor

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of the receipt of one letter of objection to the proposal to commence charging on Atlas Road Car Park.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Darwen Town Centre is free to park and operates on a variety of time limited car parks and on-street parking bays. There are 11 Council owned car parks within the town centre which provide 450 off-street parking bays and in the region of 120 on-street parking bays.

The off-street Council owned car parks are all free to park all day apart from the Markets car park which has a time limit of 3 hours with no return in 4 hours. The majority of on-street parking bays are 1 hour with no return in 2 hours, although some bays operate longer than this.

Railway Road car park and Atlas Road car park are located adjacent to Darwen Railway station and are used predominantly by rail users.

A recent survey showed that the car parks were virtually full before 8.30am with most users using the rail network to access Blackburn, Bolton or Manchester. It is proposed that these two car parks are changed from free unlimited parking to chargeable Pay and Display.

Railway Road car park has 60 spaces and Atlas Road car park has 43 spaces, as a result, a total of 103 spaces currently operate on unlimited free parking. The area surrounding these two car parks is mainly business and residential parking, where the vast majority of parking on-street is free, with some bays on Railway Road being time limited bays of 1 hour maximum with no return in 1 hour.

Charging for use of these car parks will bring these car parks in line with other car parks in the Borough which are used by rail users. All other parking and car parks within Darwen Town Centre will continue to be free.

3.0 DETAIL

Approval to advertise this proposed Traffic Regulation Order was given at the Regeneration SPT meeting in November 2016 and this was advertised on 5th January 2017. Following advertising, a letter of objection was received from an employee of a neighbouring business.

The objection is based on the fact that the objector and several colleagues park on the Atlas Road car park while they are at work. The objector states that:-

Minerva Crafts only has a small car park, this is for customers only and not for the workforce, therefore at least 7 members of staff use the Atlas Road car park.this will be a big expense out of our minimum wage if parking charges are to be applied.

The objector also asks if parking permits can be issued for local businesses.

Whilst the Council has sympathy with workers who will lose the benefit of free parking whilst at work, it is not their duty to provide this. There are other car parks in the town centre e.g. Knott Street which provide free parking. The objector and colleagues will need to seek parking elsewhere if they do not wish to pay car park charges. It is not possible to provide permit holder parking in this circumstance as the area does not meet the criteria. It is proposed therefore that the order be made as advertised and the objection be overruled.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

Customer	Amenity
Financial	The costs of implementing the scheme will be met from the Parking Services budget
Anti-poverty	None
Crime and Disorder	None

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee recommends that the Executive Member support the officer recommendations that:-

- the objection is overruled.
- The Order is made as advertised.
- The objectors are informed of the decision.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Letter of objection Plan
7.0 CONTACT OFFICERS:	Gina Lambert
8.0 DATE PREPARED:	31 st January 2017