

# Tarporley Parish Council

## **Informal Meeting with CW&C Highways Representatives regarding Parking Friday 15th January 2016 - Tarporley Community Centre.**

Present :

Parish Council - Gill Clough, Elaine Chapman, Julie Hall, Ken Parker (Chairman),  
Gordon Pearson, Richard Statham, Peter Tavernor.  
Cheshire West & Chester Highways - Jerry Gibbs, Ian Lovatt.  
Cheshire West & Chester - Councillor Eveleigh Moore Dutton.  
Tarporley Business Owners - Charles Hardy, Gill Rutherford,  
Clerk - Ann Wright.

The following topics were discussed:-

It was suggested the parking issue in Tarporley has got worse in the last two years and particularly in the last six months. It was noted that only about 1/3 of the development which has been approved has taken place so the situation is likely to get worse.

Mr Rutherford stated if the Aldi store was constructed a community car park would be a windfall for Tarporley, however if it was behind the store it would not be used by shoppers as it would be too far to walk.

It was noted that one of the major issues is all day parking on the High Street which prevents shoppers parking and popping into shops, long stay parking should be shifted into car parks.

It was suggested there are often spaces in the car parks, particularly the British Legion car park, although they fill up around 10am.

It was suggested the Community Centre would lose bookings if their car park was full most days. Their car park is already well used and when events are on there are often cars parked along the front of the Hall on the road, there is also an issue with sixth form students parking in their car park.

It was asked if CW&C proposed to charge for parking in places like Tarporley, as it was thought the Parish Council would not support such a move. Mr Gibbs confirmed that this (charging in Tarporley) had not been decided as yet. It was hoped this would not be introduced as it would be expensive to implement.

It was suggested that the meeting consider time limited parking on the High Street, and whether that would be possible.

It was noted that the September 2014 parking survey funded by the Parish Council identified that there was not enough long stay parking in Tarporley and identified a shortage of 77 parking spaces by 10.30am. It was noted by the meeting that the survey had not identified commuters who were parking in car parks and on the High

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Street and then getting buses into Chester etc. as such it was possible more than 77 places are required (even at 2014 population levels).

It was noted that long stay parking on the High Street is highly damaging to local businesses but that this needs balancing with the needs of residents living on the High Street.

It was suggested that longer stay parking should be further away from the shops and businesses.

It was suggested the Council should look at developing long term and short term plans, the long term plan would be to look at costing solutions including building a new car park.

It was stated by business representatives that shops are losing customers due to the lack of parking.

It was noted that any parking restrictions that might be introduced must be enforced.

Recent consultations for the Neighbourhood Plan, and for the Aldi consultation have shown a mood change in Tarporley regarding parking and congestion and that this is now a major issue for residents.

It was suggested that if residents and businesses supported time limited parking that it could be introduced as a trial although it may not be a complete or perfect solution.

It was noted that if there are not enough long stay parking spaces available time limited parking could exasperate the situation.

It was recommended that the Parish Council should carry out its own consultation to identify the levels of support for time limited parking amongst residents and businesses. It was suggested the CW&C Localities team would provide support for the consultation.

The following steps were identified:-

- 1) Parish Council to carry out informal consultation with residents and businesses.
- 2) If consultation supports time limited parking, identify sections of High Street to be included and also time limit.
- 3) Highways will draw up and provide a price for the scheme.
- 4) Formal consultation by CW&C lasting 3 weeks, any objections received at this stage must be considered.
- 5) If no objections received or objections are overcome a legal order is created.

6) Formal notice is published, making of the order. Parish Council should informally publicise this as well.

7) New regulations and signage are put in place.

8) Notify parking services to carryout enforcement.

It was noted that CW&C have rationalised parking regulations and the parking restrictions outside the Co-op are an anomaly, restrictions are limited to double yellow lines or time limited parking.

It was noted any restrictions imposed need to be consistent so they can be easily understood by drivers.

It was suggested any restrictions if supported by residents and businesses could run from the flower shop by the path to St Helen's to the Natwest which already includes areas where parking is prohibited including the zig zags by the pedestrian crossing.

An 'Experimental' or trial ~~trial~~ order could be introduced which would last for six months with a review after 4 months, a second order would need to be introduced to make the order permanent if it was successful, this would be an additional cost.

Highways officers agreed to provide a list of standard time limited parking times for consideration plus plans of the High Street (electronically and on paper) for consultation purposes. Highways agreed to draw up a plan for consultation purposes which can be compared with existing restrictions following the initial consultation with businesses and residents.

It was noted 'joint orders' can be produced which can be both time limited and residents parking.

It was noted if parking restrictions are introduced the Parish Council would notify businesses and residents when the restrictions will come into force as there is no intention to catch people out and get them ticketed.

It was emphasised that no decision would be made on introducing parking restrictions on the High Street without consultation with businesses and residents before any formal consultation or processes are undertaken by CW&C.