

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM
PARKING SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTE of the MEETING of the
TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM, PARKING
SUB-COMMITTEE held in the Old Burgh
Chamber, Chambers Institution, Peebles on
12 June 2013 at 5.10 p.m.

Present:- Councillors S. Bell (Chairman) (from para 3), W. Archibald, N. Buckingham, G. Logan, Community Councillor A. Stewart, Mr M Macdonald.
In Attendance:- Team Leader – Road Safety/Traffic Management, Democratic Services Officer (K. Mason).

CHAIRMAN

1. In the absence of Councillor Bell, Councillor Archibald chaired the meeting.

MINUTE

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Parking Sub-Committee of 25 April 2013.

DECISION

APPROVED the minute.

MEMBER

Councillor Bell joined the meeting.

CHAIRMAN

3. Councillor Bell took over the chair.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PARKING AND QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

RESULTS

4. The Team Leader – Road Safety/Traffic Management by means of a power point presentation gave information on the results of the off-street car parking survey which had taken place within the four car parks, namely, Edinburgh Road, Greenside, Swimming Pool and Kingsmeadows. Information was also presented in relation to the on-street parking survey within the Old Town, Eastgate, High Street and Northgate. Both surveys had taken place on Saturday 18 May and Tuesday 21 May 2013.
5. The Team Leader advised that although he had insufficient time to deal in depth with the results of the survey, he had pulled out some of the relevant issues. Members considered that the data provided was comprehensive. In response to a question asking “would you continue to use the car parks if the charges were applied on weekdays as well as on Saturdays”, of those questioned, 57% said yes, 36% said no and 7% said maybe. Councillor Buckingham undertook carry out an analysis of the 36% in regard to where else they would park.
6. Mr Macdonald submitted that there was no shortage of parking in Peebles. 89% of respondents usually found a space easily; only 16% of respondents were not aware that charges did not apply on weekdays even although 32% of responders were from outwith the Borders; charging for parking on weekdays could potentially lead to a reduction in visitors of 36% which would be devastating; over 1/3rd (35%) of visitors were from Tweeddale and other Border towns outwith Peebles and introduction of parking charges would potentially divert these visitors to other destinations; according to the data there was available space in Peebles at all times, therefore the town was not losing visitors, and the introduction of pay

parking would not lead to increased footfall; a charging scheme would affect not only retail activities, but other issues of social interaction. He considered there were low cost, low impact measures which could be taken to improve parking efficiently, particularly on the High Street. He referred to a Northern Ireland Assembly paper on Discounted Car Parking Initiatives and the Democratic Services Officer undertook to email this document to Members.

7. In discussing the outline of the report to the Tweeddale Area Forum, it was hoped that the Sub-Committee would be able to report to the meeting of the Tweeddale Area Forum scheduled to be held on 11 September 2013. Care and time needed to be taken before making a recommendation and there was a need to prove that money had been wisely spent in carryout the surveys. Members were asked to pass their observations/comments directly to the Team Leader by 3 July 2013, to enable him to bring back some options for discussion on analysis of the data, which would be considered by the Sub-Group at the next meeting. The Team Leader was asked to gather information on busses using car parks for consideration at the next meeting. A question was also raised about whether the Market held on Thursdays in the Edinburgh Road car park had any impact on car parking. The Sub-Committee agreed that the Market could be an item at the end of the agenda for the August meeting although time constraints might not make that possible.

DECISION

(a) NOTED the presentations.

(b) AGREED that

- (i) Councillor Buckingham would prepare an analysis of the 36% who said they would not continue to use the car parks;**
- (ii) the Democratic Services Officer would email Members a copy of the Northern Ireland Assembly paper on Discounted Car Parking Initiatives.**
- (iii) Members pass their observations/comments to the Team Leader by 3 July 2013, to enable him to bring back some options for discussion on analysis of the data, for consideration at the next meeting;**
- (iv) the Team Leader would provide information on busses using the car parks for consideration at the next meeting; and**
- (v) time permitting discussions would take place at the August meeting regarding the issues of the Market on Thursday.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

8. The Sub-Committee agreed that the next meetings would be held on Wednesday 24 July 2013 and Thursday 8 August 2013 at 5.00 p.m. within the Old Burgh Chamber, Chambers Institution, High Street, Peebles.

DECISION

AGREED that the next meetings would be held on Wednesday 24 July 2013 and Thursday 8 August at 5.00 p.m. within the Old Burgh Chamber, Chambers Institution, High Street, Peebles.

The meeting concluded at 6.15 p.m.