

## **PEEBLES PARKING WORKING GROUP – INTERIM REPORT**

### **Background**

The Group was set up following a decision in November 2019 by the Tweeddale Area Partnership to carry out a review of off-street parking in Peebles. The objective of the Review was to consider a revised strategy and possible improvements to off-street parking in Peebles. The Group met in February and March 2020 but then was suspended until July 2021. It has now met 11 times taking contributions from groups and individuals in Peebles. In the spring of 2023 parking surveying and face to face interviews were carried out on behalf of the Group by Streetwise and an online Citizen Space consultation was carried out. All of the data from these activities and minutes of all meetings are available on the Scottish Borders Council Website. At the meeting of the Group on 9<sup>th</sup> August it was agreed that the Chair, Councillor Robin Tatler, should prepare and submit a report with recommendations to the Tweeddale Area Partnership – as per the original remit of the Group when it was set up. These recommendations are listed below.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Any changes to the off-street parking regime in Peebles will be reviewed after a period of 18 months from implementation.
2. There are to be no immediate changes to the charging regime for the Neidpath, Kingsmeadows, Greenside or Swimming Pool car parks.
3. There should be improved signage at entrances (and possibly junctions) in the Town indicating the name, capacity and charging regime for all Car Parks. Consideration should be given to including information about the availability of public toilets at the Kingsmeadows and East Station Car Parks.
4. There should be improved signage at the Pay Stations at the Greenside, Swimming Pool and East Station Car Parks, indicating that funds from parking fees and fines (less maintenance and staff costs) will go directly towards Town Centre improvements. These improvements could be better visitor information, path and pavement maintenance, environmental work (flower beds and baskets) and promotion of the Town for visitors.
5. For the benefit of residents there should be a promotional campaign to encourage the purchase of Annual Car Parking Passes which are available from Scottish Borders Council for £26 a year. The Pass allows for free parking in any of the Peebles Car Parks and some of the other Car Parks across the Scottish Borders.
6. A proposal to change the current charging regime in the East Station Car Park will be put to an online vote on Citizen Space, before a final decision is made at the next meeting of the Group in October 2023. The proposal will be to change this from only charging on a Saturday to charging 6 days a week (Sunday excluded).

As item 6. has still to be concluded, this is an Interim Report. A Final Report will be submitted for consideration at the Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

**Councillor Robin Tatler, Chair**

**August 2023**