



**Car Parking in Marlborough**  
**Marlborough Town Council Public Meeting**  
**10<sup>th</sup> November 2014**  
**Comments from Plenary Sessions**

There were 22 attendees at the meeting (including 12 Marlborough Town Councillors)

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending and introduced Andrew Jack (Community Area Manager, Wiltshire Council) and Shelley Parker (Town Clerk)

### **CAR PARKS**

- Seven years ago Marlborough Town Council had asked about the possibility of taking on responsibility for car parks. This had not been followed through
- Some confusion about how to define “little used” car parks (page 15 of the Consultation Document gives a breakdown of the percentage usage for local car parks)
- Main purpose of the meeting was to understand the main parking problems
- Parking was a significant problem for low-paid workers who needed to park in the town
- Proper criteria was needed to allocate permits – whether for residents with no parking of their own, visiting care workers or low-paid workers who lived out of town
- A Wiltshire Council season ticket cost £400
- Might be helpful to increase time limits on the free car parking spaces at the side of the High Street from 30 minutes to 1 hour
- Need to be more realistic when considering parking provision for new housing and business development to avoid added pressure on car parking spaces in town
- Wiltshire Council’s Strategy appeared to be anti-car, promoting sustainable transport reflecting central government policy. Cars would become ‘greener’ and change (e.g. electric cars) but would not disappear
- Marlborough was a rural area with steep hills and an ageing population. Any decisions on car parking requirements should take this into account
- Consultation Document (page 21) set out car parking revenue indicating likely income loss if WC passed on responsibility

### **RESIDENTS PARKING/OFF-STREET PARKING**

- A scheme in Hungerford was in operation where residents and care workers paid £50 a year for a parking permit giving exemption for payment in town centre car parks. This meant no requirement to change signs. Could such a scheme be tried in Marlborough?
- Several comments were made about the need to better enforce parking restrictions, whether in pay and display car parks, overnight lorry parking in George Lane car park, yellow line areas such as Ducks Meadow or free but time-limited spaces

- There was no such thing as ‘free’ car parking – the costs would need to be covered elsewhere even if not from the parking public (local town or parish council, Chamber of Commerce, BID initiative, etc)
- The flow of traffic through Frees Avenue had worsened since parking was moved to the opposite side of the road with fewer passing places
- With a high density of on-street parking in Marlborough’s narrow side streets, there was high potential for accidents and vehicle damage
- Parking on residential roads could be restricted to one side only

## **SOLUTIONS**

- A park and ride scheme could operate from the Common. If free to users, funding would need to be identified to cover the costs.
- Creation of an underground car park beneath the recreation ground in Salisbury Road.
- Rapid transport/ train services to ease vehicle congestion
- Need for a long-term infrastructure plan
- George Lane could be made into a multi-storey car park (under and/or above ground) to increase parking provision while taking advantage of the existing footprint.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Call for help with enforcement of the yellow lines in the Ducks Meadow area. Parents often disregard the restrictions and have ignored appeals from the local school to ease congestion. (The Town Clerk will pass this back to Wiltshire Council Parking Services)
- Collecting cash from pay and display machines was expensive. Alternative ideas now proposed included mobile phone, credit/debit card and multi-functional machines
- Currently there was no change given from pay and display machines but, it was believed a software change could provide this
- It was noted that drivers often paid to park on Sunday when parking is free – could signage be improved or the machines adjusted to avoid this?
- The removal of free parking on Sundays was being considered as part of the WC consultation
- The Town Clerk confirmed that a number of parking restriction requests had been submitted from the Town Council in January 2014 for inclusion in a priority matrix. Frees Avenue was the top priority for yellow lines. Wiltshire Council had given assurances that the matrix would be sent to town and parish councils before the end of 2014.
- It was noted that there were 12 Councillors and 10 residents present so the attendees at the meeting may not be a representative group for the town

**All attendees were urged to take part in the Wiltshire Council consultation on parking which would run until 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
[http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/ltp/car\\_parking\\_review/car\\_parking\\_review\\_marlborough/car\\_parking\\_review\\_marlborough](http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/ltp/car_parking_review/car_parking_review_marlborough/car_parking_review_marlborough)