

Briefing Note for Warwick Area Committee

Initial impact of DPE.

Members will be well aware that DPE came into force across Warwick District on 6 August 2007.

Whilst the scheme is regulated by Warwickshire County Council the day to day management of the scheme is being undertaken by Warwick District Council on behalf of Warwickshire County Council.

The District Council was previously responsible for the enforcement of off-street parking via a team of parking inspectors. As a result of taking on the on-street enforcement the existing car park inspectors been replaced by a much larger team of parking attendants who are supported by a larger management and administrative team.

Based on an analysis of the size and complexity of the on-street areas to be enforced as well as the hours of enforcement it was concluded that a team of 24 parking attendants together with an operations manager and three supervisors would be required to enforce the regulations.

Recruitment of the parking attendants started in April and by the time the scheme went live on Monday 6th August we had recruited and had trained an “operational” team of 10 parking attendants. Before parking attendants are fully “operational” they have to complete one week of specific training and to have successfully passed an exam.

Given the need to recruit staff who are capable of taking on this role we have had set high standards. As a result we have not yet achieved the target numbers. However the quality of the enforcement is high and we expect to be operating at or very close to the target numbers in the early part of December.

Parking Attendant numbers.

Set out below is information showing the number of parking attendants employed month by month and the number of PCN's issued for that same period.

Date	PA's employed	Operational numbers	PCN's issued
6th Aug – 2nd Sept	13	10	1186
3rd Sep– 30th Sept	13	13	1387
1st Oct – 28th Oct	18	18	2037

Types of PCN issued

There are various types of contravention. Detailed below is information listing the five main types of contravention and the total number of PCN's issued against each contravention in each town.

Contravention	PCN 's Leamington	PCN 's Warwick	PCN 's Kenilworth	Total PCN's issued
No valid ticket displayed	1133	265	9	1407
Parked for longer than permitted time	395	109	14	518
Parked on double yellow line	203	85	8	296
Parked after ticket expiry time	198	109	3	310
Not loading/unloading in a loading bay	174	44	0	218

Areas covered.

We have not yet been able to provide the full level of enforcement coverage across the area. However there is an increasing level of enforcement across the area as we deploy fully trained staff. Set out below is an example of the enforcement in a specific area, including the number of specific visits to the area, the number of observations (undertaken before a PCN is issued) and the actual number of PCN's issue in each street. A high level of observations / low level of PCN's suggests that people are well aware that enforcement is taking place and complying with the regulations in place.

Street / Area	Visits	Observations	PCN issued
Forefield Place	12	41	5
George Street	53	278	42
Gloucester street	14	24	3
High Street*	36	44	6
Packington Place	7	3	2
Russell Terrace	18	59	7

* includes the area of Radford Road in RPZ 6.

Impact on on and off-street parking.

From off-street data collected it is clear that there has been a move into long stay off-street spaces and a reduction in the number vehicles parked in short stay off-street spaces. This we believe is because of the availability of long-stay spaces in some of the car parks and that people can now find an on-street paid for space close to the shop they are looking to shop at.

Since the introduction of on-street charging some 350,000 paid for visits have been recorded in Leamington / Warwick / Kenilworth.

Ian Coker
Amenities Manager, Warwick District Council

Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement Further update for Warwick Area Committee

Review of Scheme

We have now held review meetings with stakeholders in Warwick and Leamington. A meeting with stakeholders in Kenilworth is being held on 14 November.

The overall feedback has been very positive from both the commercial sector and from resident groups. The main areas of concern are those which were reported at the meeting on 25 September.

Active consideration is being given to the various comments and suggestions that have been received and it is proposed that recommendations for changes be considered by the Joint Members Working Group in due course.

In the meantime, as it is considered that more urgent action is needed, arrangements are in hand for proposals to be advertised later this month for some changes in Warwick. These include maximising the amount of parking spaces in the Guy Street/Cherry Street/Guy's Cliffe Terrace area; the introduction of "Residents Only" parking in Wathen Road, Peel Road, Roe Close and Sharpe Close and prohibition of waiting restrictions in Coventry Road. Any objections will be reported to the meeting in January. The report will include, if necessary comments on an alternative scheme that has been suggested by a local resident for the Guy Street/Cherry Street area.

Pay and Display Machines

Our information is that all machines are now connected to mains power. Any faults which arise will now be of a technical nature and will be dealt with by the District Council.

Signs and Road Markings

As far as we are aware all of the parking restrictions across the District are now legally signed.

Enforcement

At the last meeting members asked for some information on the level of enforcement that has been carried out so far. A separate note on this has been prepared by Ian Coker of Warwick District Council.

Bertie Road and Station Road, Kenilworth Proposed On-Street Charge of 30p for Half an Hour

There was some discussion at the last meeting about the current situation in Kenilworth where the closure of the Talisman Square car park (in connection with the Waitrose development) has meant that there is now less opportunity for short stay parking. There is a particular concern in Bertie Road and Station Road in relation to the use of the Doctor's surgery, for parents dropping off or picking up their children from the Nursery School and for businesses in Millar Court.

Bertie Road and Station Road are included in the residents parking scheme and are subject to pay and display arrangements of 70p for up to 1 hour and £1 for up to 2 hours. There is no 20p for half an hour available because, unlike Warwick and Leamington, there is an offer of a half hour period off-street in Kenilworth for 30p.

A number of options have been considered including the possibility of removing on-street parking charges whilst the town centre works are being undertaken. However, this would be likely to result in a significant increase in the level of on-street parking which would do very little to help overcome the concerns which have been raised. At the meeting on 13th November, Councillor Whitehouse, supported by Councillors Cockburn and Shilton, will be putting forward a proposal for the introduction of an on-street charge of 30p for half an hour in both Bertie Road and Station Road. Although this is against the general principle of on-street charges being higher than off-street it is recommended in the circumstances that the proposal be supported by the Committee. If it is agreed the process for it to be introduced is simply displaying a notice in the streets concerned for three weeks prior to the operative date.

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