

**PARKING REVIEW INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUP****8 February 2005****Attendance:**

Councillors:

Verney (P)

Busher (P)  
Bidgood (P)  
de PeyerLove (P)  
Mather (P)  
Wright (P)**Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:**

Councillor Davies

**Officers:**Alan Jowsey – Head of Traffic and Transport, Winchester City Council  
Basil Davies – Parking Manager, Winchester City Council  
Scott MacBrayne – Assistant Parking Manager, Winchester City Council

---

**1. REVIEW OF PARKING ISSUES**

The Group considered a report which had been distributed to Members prior to the meeting with the agenda.

The report set out the four issues that were raised at the previous meeting of this Group, held 15 November 2004.

**1. Park and Ride (P&R)**

The extension to the St Catherine's P&R site had opened in late 2003 and it was noted from Appendix 1 that the overall usage of both Park and Ride sites had increased. In response to questions, Mr Jowsey confirmed that the figures related to usage on Monday-Saturday and excluded Sundays. Members also noted the decrease in car parking on Saturdays in comparison to the working week and that the sites did well during the holidays and run-up to Christmas which suggested that P&R had been well used by tourists and Christmas shoppers.

During discussion, Mr Jowsey confirmed that the Guildhall had promoted the P&R to the venue's visitors in preference to the central car parks.

The Group also agreed to recommend to the Highways Authority increased signage to the P&R sites on the major routes into Winchester and particularly from the A34 at Littleton.

Following debate, it was agreed that the free two week trial of the P&R facilities to existing holders season ticket holders should be continued to March 2006 when the season ticket holders applied to renew their tickets. The current trial had resulted in 27 drivers opting to use P&R rather than renewing their season tickets and it was predicted that more were likely to do so following the 25% increase in season ticket prices from April 2005.

The Group discussed the proposed extension of the P&R service to Romsey Road and noted that this would be principally promoted to the employees of the hospital, prison, college, and the police HQ. Tender documents for this service were being prepared and it was envisaged that it would involve an additional bus service from 7.10am so that hospital staff in particular would be able to start 7.30am shifts. In response to a Member's question, Mr Jowsey explained that the tender would require smaller buses than those currently used and they would therefore be able to turn in the hospital's forecourt.

Members noted that the trial of the evening service had so far been unsuccessful in attracting a sustainable number of customers. Mr Jowsey explained that the cost of the evening service was approximately £13,500 per year and that this element of the contract could be terminated with two months notice. Members therefore requested further information on the evening service before they made a decision on its future.

## 2. Business Parking

Mr Love reported that the Chamber of Commerce had not found any interest in creating dedicated parking on the upper floors of the Friarsgate multi-storey car parks. Members went on to discuss the possibility of dedicated business parking spaces at the P&R sites and noted that a third of the City Council's staff used P&R, with the majority of the remainder using Chesil Street car park.

## 3. Extension of On-Street Pay and Display

Mr Jowsey explained that three of the existing on-street pay and display machines were taking an unsustainably low amount of money from their sites at Wales Street and Water Lane and suggested that they should be moved to areas where they would be able to generate more income.

Following debate on conservation issues, Members agreed that the proposed extension of on-street pay and display at College Walk, College Street and Hatherley Road should be further considered. During the discussion, Members raised concerns about the consultation arrangements with Ward Members.

However, Members agreed with the proposals in the report that no further action should be taken in regard to extending on-street pay and display at Romans Road, Edgar Road, Compton Road, and Christchurch Road.

## 4. Number of Parking Attendants

The Group considered proposals to increase the establishment of the Parking Attendants' Service by two part-time posts. These additional posts would help to provide a better service for Winchester's residents and visitors through better cover of sick leave and be able to quickly deal with problems and queries relating to the Pay on Foot machines. However, following debate it was agreed that in light of the budgetary constraints upon the Council, the increase in staff establishment should not be recommended but that the issue should instead be kept under review by officers.

The Group also considered the role of parking attendants in Bishops Waltham, Alresford and Wickham. In response to comments about possible enforcement action on Sundays, Mr Love explained that the Chamber of Commerce were likely to oppose this as it could affect Winchester's competitiveness with other local shopping centres.

The meeting commenced at 3.00pm and concluded at 4.45pm

Chairman