

APPENDIX A

ELGIN PARKING STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Summary

On Tuesday 31 January 2023 Moray Council's Corporate Committee agreed to freeze parking charges to enable further discussions on parking issues within Elgin to take place between the council and partner organisations.

An initial internal meeting was convened by Nicola Moss, Head of Environmental & Commercial Services, on Wednesday 15 March 2023. In attendance were Elected Members from Elgin North and Elgin South wards and from Administration Group Kathleen Robertson, Bridget Mustard and Marc Macrae, along with Officers from Transportation, initially to discuss parking matters and to identify who should be invited to a stakeholders meeting.

The Elgin Parking Stakeholder meeting subsequently took place on Wednesday 12 April 2023.

Stakeholders included representatives from Elgin BID, Visit Moray Speyside, Police Scotland, Fire Scotland, UHI, Federation of Small Businesses, Moray Chamber of Commerce, Moray Transport Forum. Elgin Community Council. The elected members who had attended the initial meeting were invited along with colleagues from Development Services and Car Park Attendant.

The format of the meeting saw attendees split into three groups each group facilitated by a member of Transportation staff, following an initial short overview. Each group discussed relevant problems, opportunities and constraints followed by potential solutions.

A summary of the feedback recorded at the meeting is on following pages.

Next Steps

Officers are currently reviewing the feedback received at each meeting. A report and recommendations will then be taken to the next meeting of the Economic Development and Service Committee on 5th September 2023.

Elgin Parking Stakeholder Meeting

12th April 2023

Problems

- Size of vehicles (modern) v size of parking bays / Family Spaces
- Disabled parking – flat access to St Giles Centre from St Giles Multi Storey
- St Giles Multi Storey partially closed
- Safety issue with multi storey car parks
- Lack of free spaces with knock on effect to on-street parking
- Limited town centre
- Behaviour of drivers who don't want to pay → time constraints → is ½ hour long enough → lower costs
- Cost/Difference in parking charges → if all car parks were £1.00 more drivers would use the car parks
- Long stay where we are looking for workers to park v short stay for visitors/shoppers
- Sharing of car park tickets as there is no vehicle registration on car park tickets
- Ticket not transferrable
- Confusion over use of App v Coins at machine/card at machine
- Loss of revenue with free 1 hour parking
- Long term closure of North Street – Building condition → Road Closure
- Illegal parking and no enforcement → High Street, Batchen Street, South Street, overstaying
- Illegal use of Commerce Street, High Street
- Police Scotland issuing of PCNs infrequently
- Misuse of loading bays and Plainstones
- Speed of vehicle on Batchen Street, High Street
- Deliveries to High Street - are these deliveries before 10am/after 4pm
- Batchen Street barriers → signage at Batchen Street is not clear
- Letter issued to businesses on Batchen Street has been misinterpreted
- On-street parking → residential parking
- Damage to pavements through pavement parking
- Seagulls
- Free parking at Leisure Centre → not everyone parking is using the Centre
- Taxi Rank
- Coach parking → passengers alighting
- Charges v Maintenance
- Railway Station car park is too expensive → need for multi day parking at the Railway Station
- It would be good to know the utilisation of car parks
- Free parking also has it's issues

Opportunities

- Signposting to cheaper parking
- Signposting to car parks from 4 arteries into town
- Improve signage → replace faded or missing signage
- Inner ring/outer ring → with cheaper parking available on outer ring
- Make the bays bigger to fit modern day vehicles → introduce more parent & child bays
- Education on pedestrianised area → emergency services access
- Review 50p charge to 1 hour
- Free 1 hour parking at St Giles
- High usage car parks – 1 hour free at lunchtime to encourage use – may stay longer
- Reduce parking charges at Railway Station to £1.00 per day
- Free After 3 – all year round
- Review car parking charges → increase income
- Allow staff parking transfer to same priced car parks
- Monthly Permit for staff car park
- Install CCTV in car parks
- Improve parking meters → issue with card usage
- Park Mark (Markings) to improve quality/safety in car parks
- Introduce park and ride
- Install additional street furniture to discourage on-street parking
- Reintroduce traffic wardens (3 for Moray) → improve enforcement
- Difference in cost of off-street ECN to on-street PCN – it pays motorists to pay PCN
- Different approach to decriminalised parking
- Periodically a week of enforcement by Police Scotland to improve illegal parking
- Council pay exclusive use of police officer for enforcement on-street
- Share DPE costs with other Councils
- Large scale decriminalisation – Parking Orders
- Marketing campaign
- Make the Plainstones a car park → could be disabled parking only
- Make part of South Street into a car park?
- Parking behind Batchen Lane on-street – could this be included in either Batchen Lane or Northfield Terrace?
- Identify areas to change to car parks
- Advertise that not all car park income goes to Moray Council, some goes to Trust/Common Good
- Improve public transport and/or active travel routes → encourage staff to use alternative to car
- Investigate more government funding
- Statutory consultations/timescales
- Cost of signage/TRO – budget
- Business Case not stacking up

Potential Solutions

- Could Elgin BID fund an enforcement officer
- Restructure the parking charges
- Introduce lower charges from 4pm onwards
- Improve cycle access → safer routes
- Introduce permits for lower paid staff

Summary

Following a discussion for the summing up the following were identified as the main points of the session:

- Illegal parking on-street → need for improved parking enforcement
- Disabled parking
- Signing → to car parks when entering the 4 arteries into town/improvement/replace missing or faded signage
- Need for policy regarding on-street parking in central Elgin