



**Report to Pelsall and Rushall Local
Neighbourhood Partnership**

13 February
2007

PELSALL VILLAGE CENTRE – PARKING PROBLEMS

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise the Local Neighbourhood Partnership on the results of recent consultation with the shopkeepers in High Street, Pelsall on proposals to implement 2 Hour Limited Waiting.

Report detail

Members will recall this issue being the subject of a report to their meeting on the 30 October 2006 where the results of a survey into the extent of long term parking in High Street were produced. This revealed that a substantial part of the available on-street parking potential was being used for the whole of the working day and to resolve this situation it was suggested that consideration be given towards implementing 2 hour Limited Waiting. In the meantime the shopkeepers in High Street have been consulted on this proposal and the results are as follows.

Of the 28 businesses identified, 26 replies were received of which 14 were in favour, 10 were against and 2 showed no preference either way.

Most of the shopkeepers who were against the proposal were quite vociferous in their opposition citing the following reasons and comments.

- Limited Waiting would 'alter the balance' of the High Street driving people away.
- No real problem recognised – *'Don't try and fix what's not broken'*
- Concern over safety of workers leaving after dark if their cars are parked away from shop.
- Concern over carrying stock and takings to car if parked away from shop.
- Lack of nearby parking would deter recruitment and retention of staff.
- Alternative 3 hour and 4 hour Limited Waiting necessary.
- Restrictions on Common side only.
- *'Draconian Restrictions would impact on customers'*
- Not enough alternative parking for customers

Further comments, suggestions and alternatives were made from both objectors and those basically in favour:

- Only in favour if there were sufficient spaces for shop workers
- Every shopkeeper should have minimum of one permit without charge.
- Restrictions should be applicable throughout the village.
- More parking facilities required – less green area.
- New car park needed and existing car parks need to be made safer
- One-Way Working in High Street with extension of existing echelon parking.

Although the previous survey results into the length of time people park in High Street was fairly significant, there does not appear to be any real substantive enthusiasm from the shopkeepers for Limited Waiting to resolve the situation. Members will recall that this issue was originally raised by just a couple of members of the general public in the public forum.

Some traders have voiced serious concerns over the ‘balance of the village being upset’ with the possibility of limited waiting driving customers away. With nationally many District Centre High Streets facing an increasingly uncertain future with the continuing growth of the major UK supermarket chains and the closure of sub post offices, there needs to be a convincing need to significantly alter existing parking facilities in these kind of locations and this does not appear to have been conclusively identified along the High Street in Pelsall.

As has been mentioned in previous reports on parking in Pelsall Village Centre there is alternative under-utilised parking in nearby streets and in the public car parks in Ashtree Road and particularly adjacent to the Library. There are no recorded crime statistics for either of these car parks which are presently managed outside the Built Environment Directorate where there is little priority for improvement. However It is anticipated that these will be transferred over where improvements and refurbishment works will hopefully ensure an increased use of these facilities.

Resource and Legal Considerations

None relating directly to this report.

Citizen Impact

None relating directly to this report

Environment Impact

None relating directly to this report

Performance Management and Risk Management Issues

None relating directly to this report

Equality Implications

None directly relating to this report.

Consultation

Shopkeepers have been fully consulted.

Links to Vision 2008

One of the Council's key priorities is to 'Strengthen the local economy'. The imposition of Limited Waiting in Pelsall District Centre could deter visitors and customers.

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