



Walsall Area Partnerships

Report to North Walsall Area Panel

Participatory Budgeting within Area Partnerships

18 September 2013

1. Context

1.1 Through Cabinet on 22 April, 2013 and Council on 22 May 2013 seven proposals for devolution discussed in a report on "Devolution Through Area Partnerships" were approved. The agreed proposals, seek to further develop the Area Partnership model. This report further considers one of those proposals, Participatory Budgeting (PB), as it moves towards the phases of design and implementation, with respect to an opportunity to apply PB to the issue of verge parking.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Area Panel meeting is recommended to note the progress to date in relation to Participatory Budgeting through the Area Partnership structure.

2.2 The Area Panel views on the proposal for piloting a Participatory Budgeting verge parking initiative in the way described in this paper is sought.

2.3 The Area Panel views on the identified verge parking schemes as set out in table 1.

2.4 The Area Panel propose any additional verge parking sites for consideration

3. Background to Participatory Budgeting

3.1 PB directly involves local people in making decisions on the spending priorities for a specifically identified public budget. This is through the engagement of residents and the community to discuss spending priorities, making and voting on proposals, as well as opening up to the public a role in scrutiny and monitoring of the process.

3.2 Across the Walsall Borough we are focusing our initial PB process on issues around cleaner and greener services and highway maintenance, including verge parking. There will be a number of opportunities for the public to become involved in influencing and determining how and when services are delivered. There will be a variety of opportunities to engage, including consultation and engagement, internet, social media, etc.



Walsall Area Partnerships

- 3.3 Localised smaller scale activity has taken place to compliment and inform the main PB described above. For example, in the Walsall South Area Partnership a recent engagement and consultation exercise, to support a local housing provider in identifying community projects has recently taken place. This culminated in the successful selection of a range of projects for the area.
- 3.4 Further localised interventions following a PB model include the developing suggestion to utilise an element of Area Partnership's funding (should it be available) for community projects in the Willenhall and Short Heath Area Partnership, enabling local people to vote for suitable community projects in their area. This would be a matter for the Area Panel to consider supported by a firm viable proposal.
- 3.5 Noting the above, this report is seeking to take forward a PB initiative focussing on verge parking in Walsall, with further updates to inform on work towards Highways and Cleaner and Greener PB exercises reserved for a later date.

4. Participatory Budgeting - Verge Parking

- 4.1 It is proposed, following initial consultation with the former Transport and Environment Portfolio Holder, that a verge parking PB project / exercise be piloted as part of the Council's devolution agenda, through Area Partnerships. The intention would be to empower local people to influence where resources are directed at a local level for verge parking schemes.
- 4.2 For financial year 2013 - 14, there is a borough-wide allocation of £250,000 for verge parking schemes, providing additional parking spaces. If devolved to each Area Partnership on an equal basis this provides an indicative budget of £41,600 per Area Partnership, this will be dependent on what proposals are put forward and will include design, supervision and associated planning costs. If any further funding is identified by the Area Partnership Panel, it is possible to add this to the allocated verge parking funding for your area to include this within the overall scheme costs.
- 4.3 It was originally intended (provided representatives of the Area Panel (Chair / Vice Chair) were content) to commence PB work, using the above funding during late summer and utilising an existing list of potential verge parking sites. It is however, evident that there is great benefit from involving Area Panels in the initial design of the project for their area as well as shaping the delivery of this proposed work. Members views not only on the concept, but on how the process can be enhanced for their Area is therefore sought at this area panel meeting prior to any roll out.



Walsall Area Partnerships

- 4.4 It is proposed that the PB exercises in each Area Partnership, will inform residents of what budget / resources they are able to have an influence on, presenting a variety of verge parking schemes that have previously been suggested through a range of routes (including requests from members of the public), a comprehensive list of all known potentially viable verge parking schemes (which are provided by the Council's Road Traffic Network Service Team, including the exact location of proposed schemes detailed in section 5), the number of additional parking spaces it would provide, an estimate of financial cost and a brief outline of the scheme.
- 4.5 Over a minimum two week period, utilising a range of media (e-mail, attendance at events, social media, internet etc), residents will be asked to "vote" / indicate their preferred schemes. The Area Partnership team, in partnership with the Engineering and Transportation Service, will produce a range of documents to support the process and will undertake the engagement and consultation in each area. This will provide the community with the opportunity to view and understand potential verge parking schemes prior to "voting". As part of this work there will be a "vote and count" event, which will provide a final opportunity for residents that haven't "voted" to do so and for all "votes" built up over the period and at this session to be counted.
 - 4.5.1 During the consultation and engagement process, where any new / additional schemes are proposed, residents will be informed that an initial assessment will need to be undertaken to ensure that expectations are managed appropriately.
- 4.6 The results of the "vote" will go to the next appropriate Area Panel for ratification, as appropriate. This may also involve, where agreed with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Area Panel, a special meeting of the Panel being convened.
- 4.7 The prioritised verge parking schemes will then be subject to the necessary in-depth checks to consider issues such as ground conditions, proximity to services, (eg, gas, water, utilities), any relevant / required permissions, etc, and that the scheme is fully viable.
- 4.8 Following the prioritisation and viability checks, the finalised schemes will be confirmed and work should commence early 2014. This is subject to planning permission and land owner permission.
- 4.9 Through the learning from undertaking this pilot, it will inform how we undertake PB to influence and inform expenditure during 2014 / 15, to provide a improved process for PB to inform local priorities, within the Clean and Green service area, focusing on street cleansing and grounds maintenance, and Highways Maintenance, focussing on road safety and maintenance.



Walsall Area Partnerships

4.10 It should be noted that these pilots will run alongside a set of core services that the Council undertakes to ensure the Authority meets its obligations to local communities.

5. Participatory Budgeting - Verge Parking in North Walsall Area Partnership

5.1 The Area Panel is requested to consider the process detailed in section 4 of above and identify local variations where necessary.

5.2 Detailed in the table below is a list of identified verge parking schemes in the North Walsall Area Partnership. Parking ID's refer to the locations for potential schemes in Appendix 1.

Location	Ward	Scheme outline	Spaces provided	Estimated cost	Parking ID
Davy Road	Beechdale	110m Lay By	20	£19,000	1
Lister Road	Bloxwich	Echelon Parking	13	£14,000	2
Central Close	Bloxwich	15m Echelon Parking and 20m Lay By	10	£10,000	3a, 3b
Mackay Road	Bloxwich	560m Lay By	94	£94,000	4
Newton Place	Beechdale	30m Lay By	5	£5,000	5
Kelvin Road	Beechdale	350m Lay By and 12 Space Car Park	70	£83,000	6a, 6b
Irvine Road	Bloxwich	180m Echelon Parking	24	£32,000	7a, 7b
Leamore Lane	Leamore	50m Access Road	18	£40,000	8
Neath Road	Mossley	60, Echelon Parking	24	£24,000	9b
Jenner Close	Beechdale	30m Echelon Parking	10	£16,000	10
Fountains Road	Bloxwich	40m Echelon Parking	12	£18,000	11
Broad Lane (90-104)	Bloxwich	90m Lay By	15	£15,000	12
Lancaster Place	Bloxwich	Major Parking Scheme	120	£250,000	13a, 13b, 13c
Cavendish Road	Beechdale	170m Lay By and 10 Space Car Park	49	£69,000	14a, 14b, 14c
Bloxwich Lane	Leamore	9 Space Car Park	10	£18,000	15
Hardy Road	Bloxwich	40m Echelon Parking	16	£47,000	16
Cook Road	Goscote	20m Echolon Parking	8	£20,000	17
Central Drive	Bloxwich	6 Space Car Park	6	£12,000	18
Livingstone Road	Bloxwich	Remove build out	2	£1,000	19
Jubilee Close	Goscote	30m Access Road	6	£24,000	20
Margam Crescent	Mossley	80m Lay By	14	£14,000	21
Abbey Square	Mossley	200m Access Road	33	£160,000	22
Broad Lane (211-289)	Bloxwich	12 Space Car Park	12	£24,000	23



Walsall Area Partnerships

- 5.3 The Area Panel can view the location of the identified scheme attached at Appendix 1.
- 5.4 The Area Panel is asked, having viewed their potential list of sites, to propose any additional sites for consideration.

Author:

John Leach,
Head of Communities and Partnerships
(01922) 653702 leachj@walsall.gov.uk

Contact Officer;

Laura Terry, Partnership Officer
Communities and Partnerships
(01922) 653705 terryl@walsall.gov.uk



Proposed Parking Plan: Bloxwich, Blakenall, Birchills, Leamore Area Partnership

