

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
13 December 2011

From: Scrutiny Committee 1

Subject: MINI REVIEW – DISABLED PARKING FACILITIES

All Wards

1.0 SUMMARY:

1.1 At its meeting on 5 July 2011 Scrutiny Committee 1 agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to undertake a mini review on Disabled Parking Facilities.

2.0 INTRODUCTION:

2.1 Seven Members of the Committee were appointed to the Task and Finish Group which undertook the review and the term of reference was:

- To examine the Council's policies and strategies in relation to disabled parking and associated charging.

2.2 David McGloin, Assistant Director; Chris Vincent, Design and Maintenance Manager and Clive Thornton, Senior Engineer attended the Task and Finish Group meetings to assist with the review.

2.3 Linda Swainston Parish Councillor for Thornton Watlass also attended a meeting, to provide information as a regular user of disabled parking facilities.

3.0 INFORMATION

3.1 The Group gave careful consideration to the following documents as part of the review:

- Department for Transport – The Blue Badge Scheme;
- Traffic Advisory Leaflet 5/95 – Parking for Disabled People;
- Plans of Hambleton District Council Car Parks;
- Car Parking Figures 2011;
- British Standard 8300:2009;
- Disabled Badge Holder Parking Charges for Local Authorities.
- HDC Parking Areas - Disabled Parking Ratios - 25 May 04;
- HDC Parking Areas - Disabled Parking Ratios - 8 August 2011;
- Car Park Gross Income 2010/11.

3.2 A survey of Northallerton car parks was undertaken to assess the need for long and short stay disabled bay provision.

4.0 FINDINGS

4.1 The Group established that:

- the disabled parking provision within Hambleton was above the national and regional average and from those local authorities included within the comparative information Hambleton was the best;
- there was a limited amount of parking space and to provide one additional disabled bay would mean losing one and a half standard bays;
- there was a loss of 7-9% income by not charging for disabled parking provision;
- Nationally there had been a 35% increase in disabled badge holders in the last 10 years;

4.2 The results of the survey of Northallerton car parks undertaken demonstrated that:

- the average stay was 2 hours;
- there was a good turn over of vehicles;
- there was a peak between 10am and 3pm;
- only a small percentage stayed more than 3 hours; and
- usage increased on a market day.

4.3 Members questioned whether the survey results obtained in Northallerton reflected the usage in other market towns and accepted that they did.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS:

5.1 Members concluded that there was no need to increase the number of disabled parking spaces; that time limiting was not required and that the current principle of providing free car parking spaces for disabled persons should not be extended to all spaces but remain as just designated disabled bays.

5.2 Members suggested that disabled parking provision should be reviewed in the future as the number of disabled badge holders increases nationally.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

6.1 To recommend to the Cabinet that disabled parking facilities within Hambleton remain as at present, but be reviewed in the future as the number of disabled badge holders increases nationally.

COUNCILLOR GEOFF ELLIS
CHAIRMAN

Background Papers: None

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