



# Car Parking Review – Scrutiny input

**Matt Perry – Interim Director (Environment)**

**Shaun James – Senior Manager Highways Technical, Business & Environmental Services**

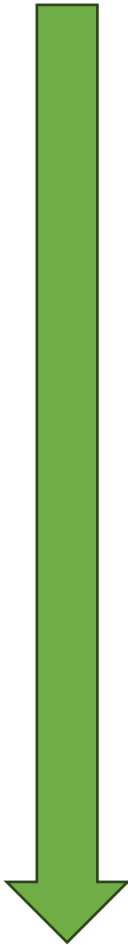
**Tony Caine – Traffic & Travel Manager**

**CRYFACH** *tecach* **GWYRDDACH**  **STRONGER** *fairer* **GREENER**



**Powys**

# Car Park review timeline



October 2023 – Commission Atkins



October 2023 – Car park working group to agree terms of reference and themes.



December 2023 – Three themed groups meet individually facilitated by Atkins



January 2024 – Scrutiny to review comments from the working groups

January 2024 – Working group to meet as one group and put recommendations forward

February 2024 – Cabinet to consider recommendations from Scrutiny and working group



# Theme – 1 – Tariffs Structures

## Issues



## Solutions

### Car park charges

- Cost is driving people away or onto residential streets around the town, causing congestion issues and hazards to pedestrians.
- Increase in illegal parking.
- Difficult for local businesses and professional tradesmen trying to park near a customer's home when carrying out work.
- Frustration from business owners due to reduced footfall as a result of tariff restructure.
- Cashless payment can be exclusionary.

### Permits

- People are unable to afford 6-month parking permit.
- Free parking signs are too small.
- Permits don't support people working in town / people in a low-income situation.
- Annual parking permits for short-stay car parks not possible, therefore residents constantly search for parking in town centres.

### Footfall

- Loss of customers since the increase in parking costs.
- Supermarkets viewed as competitors because they offer free parking.

### Concessions (blue badges)

- People are reluctant to use disabled bays in short stay car parks as they don't get enough time to shop or attend appointments.
- Long stay car parks often too far away for them to walk to their destinations.

### Car park charges

- Community decides on the car parking hours that are charged.
- Remove charges on Sundays to encourage more shops to open.
- Make cash and card payments available.
- Higher parking charges for motorhomes in Brecon and Llandrindod Wells.

### Permits

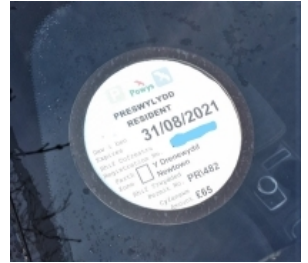
- Seasonal tickets.
- Powys-wide tickets.

### Footfall

- Better signalisation to raise awareness about the presence of car parks, as well as to clarify what the charges are for each period (1h, 2h, etc).
- Free access for a certain amount of time (e.g. 1h) to attract people away from supermarkets and into town centres.

### Concessions (blue badges)

- Disabled bays in short term car parks should have longer stay times.
- Non-disabled drivers often park within disabled on-street parking and in car parks (also related to theme 2).



# Theme 2 - Enforcement Resources & Service Improvement / Innovation



Issues



Solutions

## Benchmark current resources

- Along A483, no residential parking, therefore residents use the free car park which is always full.
- Not enough enforcement.
- Free spaces abused.
- Removal of 1h ticket magnified problems.

## Penalty charge notices (PCNs)

- Enforcement officers patrolling the same areas on the same days makes them predictable. People just know to move their cars before the officer arrives.
- Presteigne: parking outside the cashpoint causes problems for the fire engine exiting the minor road opposite and causes delay.
- Who is responsible for parking? PCC or police.
- Inconsistency between free on-street car parking and car parks.
- Disabled bays occupied by non-disabled people.

## Service improvement and innovation

## Opportunities for the service

## Benchmark current resources

- Longer, less predictable application of rules.
- Flat rate for short- and long-stay car parks.

## Penalty charge notices (PCNs)

- Ensure that enforcement is fair and consistent for all.

## Service improvement and innovation

- Street parking

## Opportunities for the service

- Allocate best areas of the car park to small, low emissions cars.



# Theme 3 – Non-Pay & Display Car Parks

## Issues

### Make best use of the asset

- More information required on use of individual car parks in individual towns.
- Out of town shopping thrives because of ease which is in part due to free parking.
- Seasonal pricing difficult to implement at the moment because signage would have to be modified manually.
- Motorhomes taking up space of other users.

### Identify towns where there is insufficient / too much parking

- Lack of available car parking in Builth and Hay-on-Wye, with insufficient short stay car parking.
- Shortage in Builth, Crickhowell, and Hay-on-Wye.
- Number of towns (e.g. Llandrindod Wells) where it appears there is a significant underuse of the available car parking spaces.
- Brecon has many car parks, should look into whether they are all used to capacity or not.
- Ystradgynlais has too little parking.

### Car parks with no charge

- Free car parks can become car parks for abandoned vehicles.

### Energy / EV hubs

- The public cannot commit to EV purchases without knowing how far they can go without the ability to recharge their vehicles.
- Are there any EV hubs? Unclear on where these are located.
- What is the minimum size to justify an EV hub?
- Is there enough capacity in the grid to have more EV hubs?
- Slow charger policy is flawed. People avoid slow chargers installed by PCC.
- EVs are expensive and unaffordable for many Powys residents.

## Solutions

### Make best use of the asset

- Nation-wide car parking app to make services more uniform.
- Links to active travel routes but not just to force people out of their cars. Improve people's safety.
- Transfer of assets to alternative organisations, e.g. RinGo.

### Identify towns where there is insufficient / too much parking

### Car parks with no charge

- Offer free parking to attract people to the town, then when the town becomes popular, introduce visitor parking fees, keep free spaces for residents and town workers.
- Make town centre parking free for a minimum of 2 hours.
- Free parking located in deprived areas.

### Energy / EV hubs

- Covered car parks with a light frame and put solar panels on the roof (as another income generation)?
- Install super-fast charging hubs in all car parks.





Thank you!

CRYFACH *tecach* GWYRDDACH  STRONGER *fairer* GREENER



Powys