

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 21 NOVEMBER 2000

ON-STREET PARKING – KILMARNOCK TOWN CENTRE

Report by Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- (a) advise the Committee about the outcome of the initial public consultations on the proposed Kilmarnock Town Centre On-Street Parking Strategy; and
- (b) seek agreement for an extended programme to promote the parking proposals.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At its meeting on 11 April 2000, the Committee approved a draft parking strategy for Kilmarnock Town Centre, comprising a number of parking management proposals, as a basis for consultation.

3. CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 A summary leaflet has been prepared to assist in the consultation process. The leaflet includes a plan showing the extent of the controlled parking area and a short questionnaire. A freepost address has been provided to facilitate responses.

3.2 An extensive programme of consultation has been carried out including:-

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| 1. | Kilmarnock North Local Committee | 23 May 2000 |
| 2. | Kilmarnock Central Local Committee | 6 June 2000 |
| 3. | Kilmarnock South Local Committee | 7 June 2000 |
| 4. | 4000 leaflets distributed to all households, businesses and other premises within the proposed controlled parking area | 3–7 July2000 |
| 5. | Leaflets distributed to Council Offices and public buildings | 3–7 July2000 |
| 6. | Article in Kilmarnock Standard | 14 July 2000 |
| 7. | Article in Kilmarnock Standard | 25 July 2000 |
| 8. | Advertisement of Public Exhibition, Kilmarnock Standard | 25 July 2000 |

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| 9. | Manned exhibition of parking proposals,
Burns Mall | 28 August –
2 September 2000 |
| 10. | Unmanned exhibition, Galleon Centre | 13/14 September 2000 |
| 11. | Unmanned exhibition, Dick Institute | 19/21 September 2000 |

3.3 Each of the three Local Committees endorsed the parking management proposals for the town centre, as a basis for consultations.

3.4 Notices were posted around the town centre prior to each of the three public exhibitions and additional leaflets/questionnaires were provided at each venue. In total, only 316 questionnaires were returned out of more than 5000 that were distributed.

3.5 Presentations have been given to the Grange Howard Community Council and the Kilmarnock Town Centre Management Initiative at the request of the organisations.

3.6 The findings of the public consultation are set out in Appendix 1. They indicate broad support for the proposals by a significant majority of the respondents.

4. TIMETABLE

4.1 The responses have highlighted a number of issues which will be given further consideration in the course of developing detailed options.

4.2 In order to achieve a scheme which solves the parking problems in the town centre and surrounding residential streets as well as meeting peoples needs and concerns, it is proposed to carry out further consultations on the detailed options. This will take place early in 2001. These consultations will focus on levels of charging and options for collection of charges.

4.3 Once the consultations have been completed a further report will be prepared for the consideration of the Committee setting out a proposed scheme in detail including management and financial implications.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A new Traffic Regulation Order will be required in accordance with the Roads Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to implement a pricing policy and new waiting restrictions in Kilmarnock Central Area.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The cost of consultations and developing the proposed parking strategy will be met from existing budgets.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) Notes the public response to the consultations on the parking management proposals for Kilmarnock Town Centre.
- (b) Agrees that there shall be a further consultation on detailed parking proposals before reporting back to the Committee.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

KO/YK
6 November 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Summary Information Leaflet and sample questionnaire.**

For further information please contact Keith Orton on 01563 555714

Implementation Officer: Keith Orton

APPENDIX 1

A1. The Questionnaire

A1.1 The questionnaire was divided into three parts:-

- (a) TOWN CENTRE PARKING STRATEGY : seven questions on specific aspects of the town centre parking strategy.
- (b) WRITTEN COMMENTS : space was provided for written comments on parking issues and the proposed parking strategy.
- (c) ABOUT THE CONSULTEE : Questions about the consultees main mode of transport, their postcode and specific parking requirements.

A1.2 An analysis of the response to the questionnaire is set out below.

A2 Town Centre Parking Strategy

A2.1 Table 1 below indicates the proportions of the consultees that replied; Agree; Disagree; and Don't Know to each of the seven questions on the parking strategy.

TABLE 1

		316 Returns		
		Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Don't Know (%)
1.	The area where on-street, short stay, medium stay and long stay parking is available should be as shown in the plan.	60%	32%	8%
2.	The new on-street waiting restrictions should operate between 8.00am and 6.00pm. Monday to Saturday (as at present).	73%	21%	6%
3.	A residents parking scheme should be provided.	83%	13%	4%
4.	Special on-street loading bays for commercial vehicles should be provided where necessary.	90%	3%	7%
5.	Waiting and loading restriction should be provided at junctions and other key locations in the interests of safety.	91%	4%	5%
6.	Exemptions from on-street parking charges should be provided for the disabled, residents with a permit and commercial vehicles, taxis and motor cycles in designated bays.	82%	15%	3%
7.	On-street parking should be restricted around Rugby Park during football matches and other events.	71%	18%	11%

A3 Written Comments

A3.1 261 questionnaires contained written comments. Many of the completed questionnaires contained comments on a wide range of issues, however, most related to a relatively small number of recurring themes. These have been set out in Table 2 below, along with the proportion of questionnaires which contained the comment:-

TABLE 2

COMMENT	Proportion of responses containing the comment.
1. Object to paying for residents parking permit.	17%
2. Town centre parking charges should be reduced or free.	17%
3. Existing problems arising from hazardous and indiscriminate parking in the town centre.	15%
4. Inadequate parking spaces in the town centre and difficulty finding spaces.	13%
5. Comments about the multi-storey car park (mainly concerned with security or reducing charges to encourage greater use)	7%
6. Comments about the proposed events order at Rugby Park.	6%
7. Concerns that the proposals will discourage people from using the town centre.	6%
8. Opposed to exemptions for motorcyclists, taxis or the disabled.	5%
9. The town centre parking proposals are not required.	4%
10. Public transport alternatives should be considered.	4%

A4 About the Consultee

- A4.1 One hundred and forty one residents indicated that they do not have off-street parking and one hundred and forty seven indicated that they wanted to be considered for a residents parking permit.
- A4.2 Ten businesses in the town centre indicated an interest in having a commercial vehicle bay near their premises to assist with the delivery and collection of goods.

AGENDA