

EXTRACT FROM EXECUTIVE MINUTES – 5 FEBRUARY 2008

518 BUSINESS PERMIT PARKING SCHEME –  
SOUTH STREET, BISHOP'S STORTFORD

The Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport submitted a report detailing the history and context of the development of a proposed business permit parking scheme in the South Street area of Bishop's Stortford, linked to the creation of a new public footbridge over the River Stort. He summarised the objections received during the statutory process and Officers' proposed response to these objections. He also detailed the outcome of a meeting of the Highways Joint Member Panel on 14 January 2008, at which Members supported an alternative proposal for a peak hour (single yellow line) restriction, to be implemented at the same location.

The Executive Member proposed that the objections received be overruled and that the scheme be implemented as originally intended. This would mean the provision of 13 free permits for the owner/landlord of Millars Three for distribution to their tenants as compensation for the loss of car parking spaces accommodating the construction of the new pedestrian footbridge.

The Executive Member emphasised that this was not just a parking matter. He believed that the wider benefits outweighed the objections received.

Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink expressed a number of concerns with the proposals. She referred to the shortage of residents' parking in the area and the impact this scheme would have for users of the Bowls Club and local residents. She believed that it was unfair for free permits for parking on the public highway to be provided.

Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink also referred to the consideration given by the Highways Joint Member Panel. An 89 signature petition had been submitted, requesting the implementation of a peak hour parking ban achieved by means of a single yellow line, to apply to most of the area proposed for the business permit parking scheme. This had been supported by the Panel.

Finally, Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink referred to the potential for parking provision on the other side of the river and believed that the Council should make a commitment to provide spaces there.

In response, the Executive Member referred to Officers' advice that the resident scheme requested by the petitioners would not work. He and other Members reiterated the greater good being addressed by the proposals.

In response to Members' comments, the Leader stated that the Executive Member would continue to look at options for parking provision elsewhere, as and when opportunities arose.

The Executive approved the proposals as now detailed.

RESOLVED – that (A) the summary of objections received in respect of the above proposed scheme, as now detailed, be noted;

(B) the actions of Officers in overruling these objections, as now detailed, be endorsed;

(C) the recommendations of the Highways Joint Member Panel meeting held on 14 January 2008, in respect of the Council's proposals, be received; and

(D) the continued implementation of the proposed business permit parking scheme and ancillary single yellow line restriction, be supported.

DCCS