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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

SUMMARY of a **MEETING** of the **CAR PARKING WORKING GROUP** held on 10 August 2015 at 10.00 am

Present

Councillors

R Wright (Chairman)
Mrs A R Berry, D R Coren, Mrs C P Daw,
R Evans and J D Squire

Also Present

Councillors

N V Davey

Also Present

Officers:

Claire Gillard (Accountant), Stuart Noyce (Waste and Transport Manager) and Julia Stuckey (Member Services Officer)

1 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies. Cllr Derek Coren was elected to the Group.

2 **NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes of the last meeting of the Group were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **SUGGESTIONS FROM OTHER MEMBERS**

The Group discussed various ideas with the aim of generating more income and boosting town centres.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The town centres needed to take some responsibility for increasing footfall;
- The public expect to pay some sort of charge to be able to park conveniently;
- £1 for 5 hours and £2 for 10 hours appeared to be working well and car parking income had increased when these rates were implemented;
- The Market car park was generally busy so people appeared to be happy to pay for convenience;
- Scrapping charges would create chaos as car parks would be full all of the time and would be used by workers. There would be no space for shoppers, therefore some form of charging mechanism was necessary;
- The traders could help to bring people into the town with events and offers, marketing and promoting;
- The possibility of offering some form of free parking;

- The accountant reported that there had not been a notable drop in usage when the charges last went up;
- The overnight fee of £1 was considered reasonable for all night but expensive for a 20 minute trip to collect a takeaway;
- Dwell time – the Head of Communities and Governance expressed concern that allowing a limited period of parking for free would reduce the 'dwell time' and therefore reduce income for the traders;
- The complexity of the current charging system and the need to simplify it;
- The need to change vending machines if free parking was introduced as the current machines were not able to deal with this;
- Spare capacity in Williams Street to be offered to permit holders, available spaces to be surveyed and either offered to 4 or 8 applicants;

The following charging mechanism was suggested and the accountant was asked to produce statistics to show the effect that this would have on the budget/income.

Long stay car parks

Monday to Saturday

£1 for 5 hours, £2 for 10 hours, £5 for 24 hours and £30 for a week

Or

Removal of the £1 for 5 hours option and simply charge £2 for 10 hours.

Sunday

£1 for 5 hours £2 for 24 hours

Or

£1 all day.

Wellbrook Street Long Stay

30 minutes free, £2 up to 4 hours (including the 30 minutes free), £3 for 24 hours

Or

£1 for 1 hour, £1.50 for up to 4 hours, over 4 hours £2

Sunday as per the long stay car parks.

Medium Stay – Westexe South and Market Street, Crediton

Monday to Saturday

30 minutes free, 2.5 hours £2 (including the 30 minutes free)

Or

30 minutes free, £1 for 1.5 hours (including the 30 minutes free) and up to 3 hours £2 (including the 30 minutes free)

Phoenix House

15 minutes free
£1 for 1 hour (including the 15 minutes free)

Saturdays as per the medium stay car parks

Short Stay – William Street, Becks Square

30 minutes free
£2 for 2 hours (including the 30 minutes free)

Or

No free 30 minutes
£1 for 1 hour
£2 for 2 hours

All overnight and Sunday charging in short and medium car parks to remain unchanged.

4 NEXT STEPS

The accountant to calculate the increases/losses to income from the various options provided, in order that Members review this prior to the next meeting.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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