



CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL CAR PARKS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON
THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor D. Preece - Chair

Councillors: A. Hussey, P. Leonard, B. Owen, J. Ridgwell (Vice Chair) J. Roberts, and W. Williams.

Co-opted Members, Councillors: N. Dix, S. Morgan and J Taylor

Together with:

C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), C. Campbell, (Transportation Engineering Manager) D. Smith (Principal Engineer – Traffic Management) P. Hudson (Business Enterprise Renewal Team Leader).

And Cllr J. Pritchard (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Property) observing.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G. Simmonds.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL CAR PARKS TASK AND FINISH GROUP - 11TH NOVEMBER 2021.

RESOLVED that that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2021. are approved as a correct record.

4. SURVEY UPDATES.

Members were advised that the retailer survey needed to have some changes to the questions and the Task and Finish group questions have been added to that survey. This has now been finalised and sent to Policy for advice before it is sent out. It is hoped to have an update on responses at the next meeting of the task and finish group.

Members were asked for their comments on the public survey which has been previously circulated. The task and finish group were advised that the survey has been created ready for on-line completion and translated into Welsh. Once approved it can be put on the council website and the link promoted by Communications Team. Contact details for the public to request a paper copy will also be provided for those unable to access the survey online.

Members suggested that an additional question on how long people stay shopping in the high street, with a supplementary to ask why they don't stay for longer. It was also suggested that the responses to the question 5 should be amended to use the word importance instead of likely.

Members queried if they could share the link to the survey themselves and were advised that as soon as it is on the website the link will be circulated for members to share. The aim is to hold the next meeting of the group on the 3rd February and have the preliminary results available for consideration.

The group discussed how to optimise the number of responses and it was stated that it is hoped to encourage as many people as possible from across the county borough to complete. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Manager would provide regular updates to the Task and Finish Group on the number of responses in real time, before the next meeting.

5. OPTIONS.

Members discussed the briefing document which included the information requested at the last meeting on income and expenditure and NNDR and outlined the options on future charging.

Members were advised that the balance of income remaining after the costs to run the pay and display car parks are retained by the service area and used to run the remaining car parks and other services such as traffic management, public transport and highway maintenance. The group were advised that there is no specific amount allocated to the car parks each year, as requirements can change for year to year. In some years for example larger amounts may be needed for refurbishment or renewal works.

Members expressed concerns that the authority is responsible for payment of NNDR for park and ride car parks, and other running costs. They compared a person parking in a park and ride car park who then travels to Cardiff by train, to people who park in pay and display to visit our local towns. Members felt that local visitors are subsidising the park and ride users. It was explained that the authority has taken a decision to not charge at park and ride car parks, but this could be reviewed at a later date. It was suggested that this could be a recommendation that the group re-convenes and consider this issue.

Members considered the options for future charging and acknowledged the loss of income for those where there is time limited free parking. It was explained that the income loss is an estimate as it is difficult to predict how shopping patterns would change if there were limited free parking. For example, if 1 hour free parking was offered, some people might prefer to curtail their visit to 1 hour to avoid paying, thereby reducing the time spent on the high street and also reducing the overall car parking income for the second hour. Each option was considered alongside the pros and cons and Members agreed that options 1; 2; 3 and 9 would be prioritised initially, but it was agreed to retain the other options in reserve until the survey findings are available.

It was agreed to convene the next meeting on 3rd February 2022, when some of the results of the business survey questions could be available for consideration as well as the public survey.

The meeting closed at 18:06 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the next appropriate meeting they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR