



Waveney Green Party Parking Zoom Summary

This was an online Peoples Forum - your voice can be heard - organised by the Green Party on 12 November 2020, in order for Councillor Caroline Topping to take our views to East Suffolk Council Scrutiny Committee meeting 16th November for discussion of the new parking arrangements.

The zoom meeting was open to all members of the public affected by the new arrangements in the towns of Beccles, Bungay Halesworth and Lowestoft and their environs. All were encouraged to participate. Altogether 22 people registered via the info@waveneygreenparty.org.uk, and 15 people on email from people who could not attend the zoom.

As promised a conclusion of each Zoom room and of various emails together with Caroline's summary below is given here and sent to all participants.

Feed back from the Scrutiny meeting from Councillor Caroline Topping

First of all I urge you to everybody to fill in the questionnaire, link below. Make your voices heard. <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/visitors/parking-services/parking-management-schemes/>

1. It is structured so you can only make comments on the street you live on, which is not helpful if you want to refer to parking in the town
2. It does have a comments box at the end which I would encourage everyone to make their real points about the parking situation as they see it.

The Scrutiny Committee 16th November lasted over 3 hours, and was usually well attended. It did go a little 'around in circles', as some of those being allowed to ask questions had not been listening and asked questions we had asked 2 hours prior.

The recommendations we put forward at this meeting will go to Cabinet. We then get to ask questions, give information and challenge again, what is happening. The Cabinet vote on what they wish to happen and then their recommendations will go to Full Council. As you can imagine, this all takes months.

In the meantime, I have a meeting on 4th December, with Officers of the council and the Portfolio Holder, to give local knowledge. I will present all this knowledge again. I have been emailing it to the officers and councillors since 23rd September, when I first started receiving these emails. I will continue to argue the case until a final decision is made and hope that the local knowledge which I am imparting will be listened to and the right decision made for the home owners.

Kind regards Caroline

HALESWORTH

Annette Dunning reported

1. Centre Car Park. Problems with new ticket machine

a. Two-minute recovery period when it goes wrong, which causes queues and distress. Poor phone signal and internet connection in town, adds to problems with Ringo.

b. Difficult to understand especially for elderly or those vulnerable.

c. Only one machine available in central carpark - we need 2.

d. Parking restricted to one ticket per day (including free tickets). Problem for parents delivering and collecting children to Edgar Sewter Primary school. Restriction from parking near school, so car park had been suggested. Now roads are blocked and complaints from residents.

e. Very disappointed in the reduction to 30 minutes from one hour free. Not enough time to shop with COVID queues. Cannot make a payment if free ticket expires.

Detrimental to the traders. Very disappointed to hear that previously Beccles had free parking without making a payment to ESC as was required in Halesworth.

f. Not COVID safe, no sanitizing throughout the day of machine.

2. Carers' permits

You can buy a carers' permit for 20 days on-street parking a month for £8. But carers are needed seven days a week. We have 2 carers companies in the town who work seven days a week. What are they supposed to do the other days?

3. Residential permit linked to car not house

What about carers visiting? What about rental cars? What happens with spontaneous visitors?

Although only £1 it is very difficult and time consuming to get visitors' permits online, if you are on the internet...

4. Uploading of forms discriminatory

Very complex procedure. Documentation to prove you own a car online disadvantages a whole host of people who are not savvy with computers, or indeed who change their cars regularly.

5. Yearly off-street permit charge increase to £650 from £350 (£150 concessions)

Illegal to raise council tax more than 5%, how can this increase be justified? These permits are needed by residents who have no street parking. Especially hard on pensioners who have no increase in pension. Also, ticket is now car park specific, £650 has no concessions.

OBJECTIVES

1. Free One hour at least in main central Thoroughfare car park and clear instructions for use.
2. Multiple returns to the car park allowed.
3. Resident Permits to be returned to the successful allocation per home rather than car-based proposal.
4. Review of rise of yearly permit charges for one year from £350 to £650.

BUNGAY

Sonia reported

1 Discrimination - Insurance and elderly

Discrimination against young families and elderly who need to have their car near to where they live. If you cannot park near to your house it affects your insurance - which will be higher. Complex and new IT discriminates against the elderly - what this the right time to implement this additional hurdle to their lives?

2. What consultation has been done? No realistic risk assessment or survey and not relevant these COVID days

For example if a survey was done around Cleys, Bungay, workers use the streets to park in but when not working there are plenty of spaces.

Where is the evidence that what we had before this enforcement wasn't working?

Is this the right time, given what shops are facing?

Is it really needed, on a Sunday?

3. Outney Road

Outney Road, no off road parking, close to Clays Printing, and used by Clays because it is more convenient for them. Problem increased since new parking regulations in the town. Residents cannot park in their own street. Potential request for a residents parking permit scheme. It could be one that works for shop staff and residents as many of us work all day only returning late afternoon , leaving our spaces free for shops etc

4. Residential parking permit for car park cost increase

Far too great an increase from discounted £350 to £650 with no discount.

For example Chaucer Street with double yellow lines and no parking, so resident obliged to buy and park in Scale Street car park. For a pensioner the increase to 650 absorbs approximately SIX WEEKS of their government pension.

Chaucer Street, where on street parking not possible, residents purchases annual parking permit for Scales Street car park. The increase was made without prior notification or consultation, but as a consequence of a casual conversation with one of the parking inspectors several weeks before the application of the increase. This enforced parking levy an unfair additional burden.

5. Detrimental to Bungay Businesses

The new parking charges and enforcement are doing nothing to encourage people into the town which is struggling to keep it's shops going. Nipping into Earsham St shops, as you pass by, is not an option now - that must be costing the shop keepers.

In addition:

What are they doing with the cash they are taking in, that will benefit Bungay?

FB Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/515408375745900> Bungay has a facebook group of over 100 members formed specifically around the resident's exemption parking issue in Bungay, before we knew about the car park increase, just the timed bay change

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase Car Park free from 30 minutes to 1 hour - importance of browsing, dallying.
2. Reduce yearly charge for residents who have to purchase yearly car parking
3. No Residents parking permits in Northern half of town
4. Outney Road - potential residential parking permits due to Cleys
5. Find out where the parking money goes!

BECCLES

Report back from Caroline Topping

1 Resident Permit Parking Station Road

Sarah, Geoff and Bernard all have problems with Station road. Too many permits issues for too few spaces. Spaces for public to park for 1 hour, which are usually empty. Exemption certificates have been revoked.

2. Problems with permits linked to car not home

Not being able to transfer permits makes things difficult when you have two cars. Residents have to apply for a permit if a temporary car if car garaged or borrowed. No flexibility.

3. Ravensmere East over sold

Only around 15 spaces available which isn't enough for the 30 houses that are able to apply for a permit. Residents pay for something they cannot use.

4. Visitor permits inflexible

Not flexible to allow for spontaneous visitors.

5. Lack of consultation

OBJECTIVES

1 On and off street residents parking permits to be assigned to a house, as opposed to a vehicle.

2 Exemption Certificates reinstated on Station Road and allowed as an interim measure if/ when needed.

3 Re-access the yearly charge for those having to parking in East Suffolk Car parks, so that it is increased incrementally rather than in one year and give those users the opportunity to find alternative parking if necessary.

4 To communicate effectively with our communities.

General Discussion

A repercussion of the hike in annual car parking is that local residents are street parking rather than paying £650pa to park in the regular car park

Where does the car park, fines and residential parking money go?

Why was Teranto platform chosen as the IT solution?

ESC Scrutiny Meeting on Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SH9aEedrH0>

Process

Scrutiny 16th November

Scrutiny makes recommendations to Cabinet

Cabinet discusses following month or two months after.