

## WEST/CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE – 18 November 2004

### Questions And Answers At The Open Forum On The Themes Of Residents' Parking And Local Authority Parking Enforcement (LAPE)

<p>Derek Williams (Customer Services Manager, Parking Services) gave a brief introduction to LAPE. The main points he made are attached to this summary.</p>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
<p>Resident 1: May we have a phone number to ring for information about LAPE?</p>	<p>Derek Williams (Customer Services Manager, Parking Services): Tel: 01223 – 458500      Fax: 01223 - 458509 Email: <a href="mailto:lape@cambridge.gov.uk">lape@cambridge.gov.uk</a></p>
<p>Resident 2: Are there particular streets which regularly have people parking badly?</p>	<p>DW: Once an area is targeted by enforcement officers, those people move to another street. So bad parking is likely to move around.</p>
<p>Resident 3: Is it possible to re-classify parking areas eg in Auckland Road?</p>	<p>Graham Lowe (Engineering Manager): There has been a request from a medical practice about parking bays in Auckland Road but at the moment it is unclear whether a formal application is intended.</p>
<p>Councillor Hipkin: Is LAPE run by a private company and who pays?</p>	<p>DW: The LAPE team are employed by the City Council under licence from Cambridgeshire County Council. A private contractor has been engaged to enforce the regulations (Parking Attendants replace Traffic Wardens) and to service the IT system that supports the process. LAPE is required to be self-financing.</p>
<p>Resident 4: Is it possible to review the hours of parking regulations? Residents who start work late and finish late often have to park in pay and display bays.</p>	<p>GL: Residents should obey the regulations that are in force. If residents request a change then it would be considered. There are no objections to such a change in principle. As the last consultation about this (which indicated that residents were happy with the hours) was 5 years ago it is probably worth doing another one.</p>
<p>Councillor Hipkin: How is such a review set in motion?</p>	<p>GL: Ward Councillors are usually given feedback by local residents and then they can approach me with the request.</p>

<p>Resident 4 follow up question: Could residents have permits for pay and display bays?</p>	<p>GL: With pay and display bays it is important to strike a balance between the needs of local businesses and local residents, the current policy is for the bays to be separate. Cllr C Rosenstiel: In the Mackenzie Road/Collier Road area in Petersfield ward, residents share limited waiting bays but this is being reviewed following difficulties for residents.</p>
<p>Resident 5: Is there anything that can be done to get parents dropping children off at school to park more considerately?</p>	<p>DW: Safety is very important. It is important to encourage parents to park with consideration for other road users and pedestrians. So we are talking to schools about this issue.</p>
<p>Resident 6: Are you able to do anything about those who leave cycles on pavements? Supplementary question: Would LAPE officers report such a matter to the police and if not why not? If I as a member of the public ring the police about cycles they are not interested.</p>	<p>DW: If there are yellow lines we can enforce the regulations. Cllr Hipkin: If not, you can phone the police.  No, because it is not in their remit. They can only enforce where there is a traffic order and that is what they will do.</p>
<p>Graham Lowe (Engineering Manager) gave a brief introduction about residents' parking and parking regulations. In the run up to the introduction of LAPE, his service had been required to undertake a comprehensive review of all the traffic orders for the city. This had taken 9 months and as a consequence, no new regulations were able to be made for the last 6 months so there was a backlog. He informed the meeting that the review had identified some anomalies such as the police had not enforced single yellow lines on Bank Holidays so that the regulations will be changed so that single yellow lines will not be enforced on Bank Holidays.</p>	
<p>Resident 7: When will the review, promised in July 2001, take place of the double yellow lines in the north part of Wilberforce Road installed as an emergency measure to cope with severe traffic problems caused by the building of the Centre for Mathematical Sciences?</p>	<p>GL: The emergency ones are a very small percentage of the total double yellow lines there so the parking area released would be very small and the space would revert to uncontrolled open road space which commuters might use.</p>

<p>Follow up comment: The residents are willing to take the risk of commuters parking.</p>	<p>Then this could be reviewed and I will add it to the list. DW: Residents might like to consider what I said about parking problems moving round the city.</p>
<p>Councillor Kightley: Benson Street residents agreed on a residents' parking scheme which was put on hold because of LAPE. Is it still on the books?</p>	<p>GL: A small majority of residents were in favour following consultation. The Cambridge Environment and Transport Area Joint Committee (AJC) did agree that the proposal be advertised. This is scheduled for early in the New Year.</p>
<p>Councillor Cantrill: Has any assessment been made of the knock on effects in the rest of the city of the closure of the Lion Yard car park in January at the beginning of the Grand Arcade development?</p>	<p>DW: In my experience it is always very difficult to anticipate where parking problems will be. I think those using Lion Yard car park are a different market than those parking in your local areas. There will be variable message signs at all the major routes in to the city which will inform car drivers before they reach the city centre about the park and ride sites, the amount of car parking spaces available in Lion Yard which will still have a third of its spaces available and about the other car parks such as Queen Anne and Park Street. The Council is about to issue new leaflets encouraging people to come to Cambridge during the development and inviting them to use alternative forms of travel and to set off earlier than they are used to. Cllr S Reid: Currently there is spare capacity in Queen Anne and Park Street. Cllr C Rosenstiel: And Park &amp; Ride hours will be extended if the demand is there.</p>
<p>Councillor Holland: Is the Huntingdon Road pay and display on your project list and what is the envisaged timescale?</p>	<p>GL: This scheme was originally introduced on its own without any reference to the streets leading off it. The Benson/Priory Street scheme will incorporate Huntingdon Road and give more opportunities for residents parking in a larger area.</p>
<p>Resident 8: Barton Road and the north end of Grantchester Road are both through roads but, with cars parked on both sides, there is not enough room for 2 moving cars to pass. The balance here is not right between roads providing through routes and those for parking.</p>	<p>GL: It is about trying to achieve a balance. County Cllr A Reid: It is also important to bear in mind two other considerations – upsetting residents who would have to find somewhere else to park and the fact that the difficulties do act as a kind of much needed traffic calming!</p>
<p>Councillor J Rosenstiel: What is happening about the</p>	<p>GL: The AJC have considered it and it is in the pipeline.</p>

Parkside pay and display?	
<p>Resident 7: question not on the theme:  Why did the recent leaflet and survey claiming to be consulting about re-cycling and wheelie bins appear to be a piece of crude P.R. rather than genuine consultation?</p>	<p>Cllr S Reid explained the purpose behind the questionnaire which was to find ways to increase the amount of recycling to reach 36% by 1 April 2005 otherwise the Council would suffer severe financial penalties imposed by the Government. A total of 15-20 options had been explored and research carried out on what other councils were doing. The result was that there was a limited set of options because others would have necessitated cutting other services or raising council tax. So the options set out were those that were available without doing either of these.  The percentage of those consulted who responded to the questionnaire was 15% which was a high rate of return for a council questionnaire.</p>
<p>Resident 9:  How does that 15% response rate compare with the rate for other Council questionnaires?</p>	<p>Cllr S Reid said she knew it was remarkably high for the City Council and she would find out the figures asked for.  Cllr J Smith thanked the two members of the public for their comments and questions and said they were valuable feedback and would be reported to the Executive Councillor for Environmental Services.</p>