

EXECUTIVE BOARD
20TH JANUARY, 2020

SUBJECT:
CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS TO THE COUNTY OF
CARMARTHENSHIRE (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (VARIOUS CAR
PARKS, CARMARTHENSHIRE) CONSOLIDATION (VARIATION NO. 4) ORDER

Recommendations / key decisions required:

That the Executive Board:

- i. Determine the objections received in relation to the car parks specified in paragraph 1(i) of the Report Summary detailed below.
- ii. With exception to the car parks referred to in paragraphs 3.4.1, 3.7.1 and 3.8.1 of the Report Summary, resolve to implement the proposals as described in the draft order detailed in Appendix 1 in relation to the remaining car parks specified in paragraphs 1(i) and (ii) of the said Report Summary.

Reasons:

- The introduction of the order will improve safety and aid the orderly parking of vehicles at these locations.
- The objections have either been accepted, with parking places removed, or mitigated by ensuring that some free points of access to the MCP coastal path remain, along with a seasonal pass that allows parking for as little as 11p a day for regular users.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee to be consulted: NO

Executive Board Decision Required: YES – 20th January, 2020

Council Decision Required: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr P.H. Griffiths (Culture, Sport & Tourism)

Cllr. H. Evans (Environment)

<p>Directorate: Environment</p> <p>Name of Heads of Service:</p> <p>Stephen G. Pilliner</p> <p>Ian Jones</p> <p>Report Authors:</p> <p>Richard Waters</p> <p>Neil Thomas</p>	<p>Designation</p> <p>Head of Highways & Transport</p> <p>Head of Leisure</p> <p>Highways & Transportation Services Manager</p> <p>Senior Outdoor Recreation Manager</p>	<p>Tel No. / Email Address:</p> <p>01267 228150</p> <p>SGPilliner@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 228309</p> <p>IJones@sirgar.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 228825</p> <p>RWaters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01554 742361</p> <p>neilgthomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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1. Purpose

It should be noted that the following places were considered by the EBM for Environment on the 10th May 2019, with a decision made to approve the proposed orders at these locations:

- Parc Myrddin North, Carmarthen (plan 1, appendix 2)
- Parc Myrddin Registrars, Carmarthen (plan1)
- Selwyn Samuel, Llanelli (plan 10)
- Dafen Inn Row, Llanelli (plan 11b)

This report is to determine objections received to the off-street car parking order proposed at the following leisure locations within Carmarthenshire and whether to implement the same:

(i) Objections received for proposals at:

- a) Burry Port Harbour (plan 6 West car park; plan 7 East car park);
- b) Woodlands, Burry Port (plan 5);
- c) Shoreline, Burry Port (plan 4);
- d) Festival Fields, Llanelli (plan 8);
- e) Rotary Way, outside Pembrey Country Park (plan 2);
- f) Mynydd Mawr, Woodlands, Tumble (plan 14);
- g) Mynydd Mawr Woodlands, Cefneithin (plan 15)
- h) North Dock, Llanelli (plan 9)

(ii) No objections received to the following, where amendments to existing orders are proposed in the form of charging hours (all now applicable for 24 hr charging), changes to maximum waiting periods; or extending existing order areas. This is to help manage overnight parking at such sites

- a) Sandy Water Park, Llanelli (plan 16);
- b) Llyn Llech Owain (plan 12) – changed from 10 to 8 hrs max stay;
- c) Pendine (plan 13) – changed from 10 to 8 hours max stay (N.B. this car park will be the subject of a subsequent parking order as part of the Pendine Attractor development which will reconfigure the parking area and potentially operate as an ANPR facility, however, this current proposal provides for enforcement of max staying period as per current plan during this interim period);
- d) Bynea (plan 11).

(iii) Full details of the proposed or amended restrictions relating to the car parks subject to this report are listed in Appendix 1 hereto with locations illustrated on the plans in Appendix 2. The purpose of the proposed order is to improve safety and aid the orderly parking of vehicles at these locations, where difficulties have been noted previously in terms of disorderly parking, causing potential risk to users, staff and emergency services. The proposals also help protect the environment where disorderly parking takes place on ecologically sensitive verges and encourages the use of more sustainable access routes such as cycle networks, all of which aligns with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

2. Consultation

The proposals are detailed in the public notice which was published on the 27th February 2019 with a closing date of 22nd March 2019, a copy of which appears in Appendix 1.

3. Objections and comments

3.1. During the consultation period the Council's Head of Administration and Law received one hundred and seventy (170) objections, including a petition of fifty-five (55) names against the advertised proposals. These are summarised with comments in Appendix 4.

3.1.1 The draft Legal Order advertised indicated a £40 charge for a Season Ticket however this has been set at £37.50, as part of the Leisure Charging Digest, with the agreement of the Executive Board Member for Culture, Sport and Tourism.

3.2 A summary of the objections and the rationale for recommended decisions are explained below. All the objections apply to proposed *new* parking orders, apart from Burry Port Harbour, which is an amendment to the maximum waiting period on an *existing* order. There is clear evidence of comments and objections being fully acknowledged and considered as part of this process, with remedial actions, or in some instances the withdrawal of the proposed order at certain sites, evident from the recommendations put forward.

3.3 Appendix 3 is the equalities impact assessment underpinning this proposal, which also provides mitigation and rationale for many of the objections raised.

3.2.1. Burry Port harbour car parks (West and East)

3.2.1.1. The objectors state that the proposals will affect tourism in the area, as people will not be able to afford to park, and that the car park should remain free. They also state that there will be a displacement of vehicles should the charges be introduced, as well as affecting senior citizens with disabilities - a discounted annual pass should be available if the charges are introduced.

3.2.1.2. **Recommendation:** Implement the proposals as described in Appendix 1 (West car park to change from 4 to 8 hours max waiting period; East car park – extend parking order zone to create additional parking). There are already orders in place (2014) to charge for both existing West and East car park. An annual pass is available at £37.50 per annum (less than 11p per day) as part of the proposal. Limited free parking is available along the nearby highway network, and will also remain at Shoreline car park (3.4.1).

3.3.1 Woodlands car park, Burry Port

3.3.1.1 The objectors are of the opinion that this is the last car park you can use for free in the area and that the charges will have an impact on the community. The proposals will reduce the wellbeing of the local community and is a step backwards in terms of the Council's Wellbeing of Future Generations agenda.

3.3.1.2 **Recommendation:** Implement the proposals as described in Appendix 1 – adding order to an existing unmanaged parking place. Limited free parking is also available on the local highway network and will also remain at Shoreline car park (3.4.1) for people to access the Millennium Coastal path.

3.4.1 Shoreline car park, Pembrey

3.4.1.1 The objectors state that the car park should be kept free to encourage healthy living and for free access to the coastal path.

3.4.1.2 **Recommendation:** Remove proposal from the parking order and monitor impact.

3.5.1 Festival Fields, Llanelli

3.5.1.1 Objectors state that the charges are detrimental to health and wellbeing and would have a disproportionate effect on disabled users due to barriers on pavement near entrance.

3.5.1.2 **Recommendation:** Implement the proposals as described in Appendix 1 - adding order to an existing unmanaged parking place. Any physical barriers will be removed or remodelled to ensure equal access for disabled users as part of this proposal. An annual pass is available at £37.50 per annum (less than 11p per day) as part of the proposals. Limited free parking is also available on the local highway network.

3.6.1 Rotary Way car park, Pembrey Country Park

3.6.1.1 The objectors state that the proposals discourage the use of the coastal path, and that the charges will be diminished by the cost of installation, collection of fees and enforcement. No provision for horse riders. Charges are a concern for dog walkers and to local people on low income. Financial burden to students, social aspects as well as health.

3.6.1.2 **Recommendation:** Implement the proposals as described in Appendix 1 - adding order to an existing unmanaged parking place. An annual pass is available at £37.50 per annum (less than 11p per day) as part of the proposals. There are proposals in place to introduce a parking bay for horse boxes opposite the entrance to the car park as part of this proposal. Free parking exists at Penybedd Woods at the other end of Factory Road, as well as numerous other access points along the coastal path for dog walkers and the public alike.

3.7.1 Woodlands car park, Mynydd Mawr, Tumble

3.7.1.1 Objectors state that there are no toilet or disabled facilities at this location. The area is a public space and vehicles will park in other locations in Tumble to avoid payment.

3.7.1.2 Recommendation: Would have been a new order. Remove proposals for Woodlands car park, Mynydd Mawr, Tumble, from the off-street car parking order and monitor impact.

3.8.1 Woodlands car park, Cefneithin

3.8.1.1 Objectors consider that the proposals will cause health concerns for local residents.

3.8.1.2 Recommendation: Would have been a new order. Remove proposals for Woodlands car park, Cefneithin, from the off-street car parking order and monitor impact.

3.9.1 North Dock, Llanelli

3.9.1.1 One objector argues that order was not clear on map.

3.9.2 Recommendation: Implement the proposals as described in Appendix 1 so far as they relate to the car parks subject to this report – extending scope of existing order in the vicinity to incorporate all spaces currently used for parking. Map defines all proposed parking areas. Proposal will also allow for improved, dedicated provision for Blue Badge users at car park overlooking the estuary.

4. Recommendations

That the Executive Board:

1. Determine the objections received in relation to the car parks specified in paragraph 1(i) of the Report Summary detailed below.
2. With exception to the car parks referred to in paragraphs 3.4.1, 3.7.1 and 3.8.1 of the Report Summary resolve to implement the proposals as described in the draft order detailed in Appendix 1 in relation to the remaining car parks specified in paragraphs 1(i) and (ii) of the said Report Summary

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

NO - Attached:

Appendix 1 - Public notice

Appendix 2 - Plans

Appendix 3 – Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 4 – Objections and comments

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **S. G. Pilliner** Head of Highways and Transport
Ian Jones Head of Leisure

Policy and Crime & Disorder	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Organisational Development	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

The Traffic Regulation Order to be introduced by the Head of Administration and Law.

3. Finance

All costs associated with the introduction of this on-street car parking order to be funded by the Communities Department. It is reasonable to a small fee for regulated parking facilities to administer and maintain their effective use. Fees and charges raised at these locations are re-invested back into the Millennium Coastal Park.

5. Risk management issues

A Traffic Regulation order is being introduced to improve orderly parking of vehicles at these locations.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: S. G. Pilliner
Ian Jones

Head of Highways and Transport
Head of Leisure

1. Scrutiny Committee

N/A

2. Local Member(s)

Cllr Shirley Mathews

Cllr Huw Shepardson

Cllr Penny Edwards

Cllr Susan Phillips

Cllr Rob Evans

Cllr Emlyn Dole

Cllr Dot Jones

Cllr Jane Tremlett

No objections received

Cllrs John James and Amanda Fox both object to the proposals for the car parks in their area.

3. Community / Town Council

Llanelli Rural council - No objections received

Pembrey and Burry port Town Council object to the proposals in their area stating that it will disadvantage local people who use these places to benefit from walking and cycling, as well as those on low income or who are elderly will be disproportionately affected. They also consider that the areas in question are not of a sufficient standard to be considered official car parks that should be charged for.

4. Relevant Partners

Roads Policing Unit

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

NHS Wales Ambulance Service

Carmarthenshire Disability Partnership

Bus operators

- No objections received

Lee Waters AM objects to the proposals stating that the parking facilities are currently free and should the proposals be introduced, that there would be virtually no free access to our beaches in the Llanelli constituency. Local people use these car parks to access the outdoors for recreation, which has physical and mental health benefits.

Nia Griffiths MP also objects stating that these areas are well used by local residents and volunteer groups who regularly use these facilities, as well as picking up litter and reporting any problems. Walking groups also use these areas which has mental health and physical benefits.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

- Carmarthenshire Horse Riders Association object to the proposal on the basis of increased costs for horse riders and a lack of suitable areas to park large vehicles required to move horses (*The authority is happy to look at specific areas for horse-riders to park their vehicles, as is being introduced outside Pembrey Country Park*).
- Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum (LAF) also object to the proposal on the basis that access to the Countryside should be free; that it goes against the authority's aim to get more people, more active, more often, and that it introduces a cost to using country parks.
- Keep Wales Tidy object to the proposals on the basis of parking displacement and the charge for volunteers working in Pembrey Country Park. (*Volunteers who are part of a structured activity supported by the park can be provided with free access for their volunteer time*).

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Listed below

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Parking consolidation order (28/8/14)		
Integrated Parking Strategy for Carmarthenshire - 2015		
EBM decision meeting for Environment – 10th May 2019		