

Lewes Joint Parking Board Meeting

4 April 2011

W8D, 13.00

Present:

Councillor Matthew Lock, Lead Member

Councillor Ruth O’Keeffe

Councillor Rosalyn St Pierre

Councillor Bob Allen

John Magness

Roger Williams

David Weeks

Jason Marshall

James Graydon

John Robbins

Antony Small

Geraldine Knight

Agenda point		Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
1.1	Councillor Matthew Lock opened the meeting.	
1.2	An apology was received from Councillor Ann De Vecchi.	
2.	Review minutes of previous meeting	
2.1	Agreed. Outstanding actions and updates:	
2.2	Action point 2.3 – The use of the CCTV car is not progressing as it would not be cost effective to the County Council at this time.	
2.3	Action point 2.4 – A date for Councillors to meet members of the parking team and enforcement partners to find about different aspects of enforcement is still outstanding. This will be arranged before the next joint board meeting.	DW
2.4	Councillor Lock requested more regular updates on action points and actions completed quicker.	ALL
2.5	Action point 2.8 – Bell Lane: Councillor O’Keeffe requested an update. This area will be covered by the Lewes Parking review.	
2.6	Action point 3.4 – Lewes Station: Councillor O’Keeffe requested an update. This area will be covered by the Lewes Parking review.	
2.7	Action point 3.5 Winterbourne – AS confirmed NSL are carrying out enforcement.	
2.8	Action point 3.9 – Blue badge action day – Councillor Lock asked why another action day had not taken place. DW explained that Sussex Police had pulled their resources a week before the day. This was due to lack of staff resources and budget. Councillor Lock asked for a letter to be sent to the police on his behalf.	RW
2.9	Work has been undertaken to shadow Brighton & Hove City Council on their Blue Badge work.	
2.10	New enforcement laws will be issued by the government in the coming months which allows Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) to retain a blue badge if it is being misused.	
2.11	DW clarified that when owners of the blue badge are in the car but not driving, this is ok to display the badge, but it is not ok when blue badge holder is not in the car.	
2.12	Action points 7.7 – Malling: Atkins has included this area in the review.	

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3.	Lewes Parking Surplus	
3.1	A table has been produced to show the estimated surplus for Lewes on street.	
3.2	Councillor St Pierre said that there was no financial benefit to Lewes, but Councillor Lock said the scheme has provided more buses and less pollution.	
3.3	It was clarified that any surplus from Lewes District on street cannot go into the County Councils revenue budget. Any LDC off-street surplus can go into their revenue budget.	
3.4	Since the Lewes Parking scheme began money has been given from reserve to support local bus services.	
3.5	Relocating the Parking Shop will be looked into to see if cost savings can be made. It was emphasised that it should remain close to the town centre, possibly sharing with the Tourist Information Centre or Library.	
3.6	Councillor O'Keeffe said a simpler and smaller scheme would increase the Lewes on street surplus.	
3.7	Annual Report 2009/10 - Councillor St Pierre was concerned at the level of expenditure in Lewes. Councillor Lock asked if Councillor St Pierre would like to sit with an ESCC officer so they could explain. Councillor St Pierre said that NSL do not take their share of the loss in Lewes but JG said they have no share in the surplus either.	RW/JM
3.9	Councillor Lock would like local members to show their opposition to the destruction of machines in Lewes, this has had a severe impact on the operational surplus of the scheme. The County Councils operational surplus helps to support LTP3 issues.	
4.	Lewes Parking Review	
4.1	Surgeries were held at the end of January, there have been 2,777 replies which is a 26% response to those sent out. A provisional analysis has been carried out by Atkins and this shows mixed perceptions on how the scheme has impacted Lewes. Lewes residents reported a reduction in car use and an increase in walking. People outside of Lewes reported a slight increase in car use and a reduction in bus use. Many people have commented on the way in which the scheme is operated, some called for more sympathetic enforcement and more flexible ways to pay.	
4.2	Councillor Lock asked if County Hall staff have been asked for their views on the scheme, JR advised that they had not.	
4.3	Resident permit holders – There are limited spaces in Lewes so suspending bays can have a big impact on residents.	
4.4	Bank holiday parking – it was commented that Lewes District Council did not charge before the scheme was introduced. The original TROs included it but non payment was not enforced. AS said that on bank holidays enforcement is mostly carried out on single or double yellow lines.	
4.5	Councillor Bob Allen said blue badge holders can park for three hours on double yellow lines and that this can cause problems and obstructions.	
4.6	Size and number of zones – Atkins are tackling this issue in the review. Councillor O'Keeffe said that many PCNs have been issued to residents for being only one street out.	
4.7	Displacement – General comments from the responses but nothing specific.	

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4.8	The problems around the Police HQ will be forwarded to Atkins. Loading – Discussions have taken place with the business community and JR is speaking with the Chamber of Commerce. There is a problem with lorries parking outside the court which causes obstructions to traffic flow, however, it was pointed out that this slows down speeds and acts as a traffic calming measure. Councillor O’Keeffe asked for a 20mph speed limit on the High Street. Councillor St Pierre said how well she thought Cliffe high Street was working.	
4.9	Verges and footways – Atkins have been made aware of the recent letter sent out by Norman Baker MP. Councillor Bob Allen said that this was a problem in Seaford. In a historic town like Lewes we have to be sensitive to the size and placement of signs, these currently meet DfT guidelines. Councillor St Pierre said that the Malling area has big verges and narrow roads so all vehicles are parked on the verge. A suggestion was made to put honeycomb on the verges so that it does not damage the verge.	
4.10	Falmer – There is a degree of uncertainty about the impact that the new stadium will have. It is likely that changes to parking controls will be on an experimental basis. There should be a call back soon from the police regarding enforcement, the discussions taking place include stewards controlling the North/South entrances and double yellow lines on other areas. The Development Control team of the County Council are working closely with the stadium company. Councillor St Pierre said that roads around the stadium are the routes for the Children’s Hospital and A&E departments.	
4.11	The message is going out that no parking is allowed at or near the stadium. Councillor Lock would like us to be proactive on the issues around the new stadium. Something to go out to all members from JR or RW.	JR/RW
5.	Operational Update	
5.1	AS provided copies of the NSL report to members of the board and summarised the document.	
5.2	Quality Streets – this event is organised by the Community Safety Partnership and includes local services such as the Police, District Council teams and NSL. Members of the public can discuss local issues with the officers present. Councillor O’Keeffe said she was impressed with the helpfulness and friendliness of Russell Evershed a Supervisor in Lewes.	
5.3	The observation time for overstaying a pay and display ticket in Lewes is ten minutes, which is a longer period than other local authorities. Contract costs – NSL and ESCC have been working on reducing costs over the last two years.	
6.	Parking contract procurement Representatives from NSL left the room for this item.	

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7.	Parking Management Services Enforcement Contract	
7.1	The agreement between ESCC and Lewes District Council (LDC) does not expire and can continue with the new contractor. This agreement is currently being refreshed between the two councils.	
7.2	LDC could break from the contract which Eastbourne Borough Council have done for their car parks. An exercise was carried out at the end of last year to see if the charge to LDC was fair. The result was that the apportion we are charging is correct and LDC have confirmed their intention to remain in the contract.	
8.	AOB	
8.1	School drop offs – Councillor St Pierre advised that she does not support any PCNs being issued to parents dropping off children at schools in rural areas.	
8.2	Lewes Parking shop – The current shop costs us approximately £69,000 and a move to the Waterside Centre in Lewes was put forward to local members.	
8.3	Moving would have saved ESCC approximately £60,000. This move was not fully supported by local members so alternatives will be looked at. Councillor De Vecchi has suggested using the Lewes Tourist Information Centre and Councillor St Pierre said that the magistrates court had just closed.	
	Next meeting to be held on 3 October 2011	