

Lewes Joint Parking Board Meeting

3 October 2011

W8D, 13.00

Present:

Councillor Carl Maynard, Lead Member

Councillor Ruth O'Keeffe

Councillor Rosalyn St Pierre

Councillor Ian Eiloart

Steve Jump

Nick Skelton

David Weeks

James Graydon

John Robbins

Geraldine Knight

Sarah Bellinger

Agenda point		Action
1.	Welcome Apologies and Introductions	
1.1	Councillor Carl Maynard opened the meeting.	
1.2	Apologies received from Councillor Tony Nicholson, Antony Small and John Magness.	
2.	Review minutes of previous meeting	
2.1	Action point 2.3 – Councillors to meet members of the parking team. The presentation for Councillors has been prepared, a date and a venue is still to be arranged.	DW
2.2	Action point 2.4 –Updates to action points from previous Joint Board meetings have slowed up. This could be due to the ongoing work on the review.	
2.3	Action point 2.8 – Blue badge action day – the original date was cancelled because the Police withdrew their support. One has been carried out recently and was very successful. Any future action days might have to take place without the support of the Police and their Automatic Number Plate Recognition vehicle.	
2.4	Action point 3.7 – Councillor St Pierre to meet with NS and DW to go through the Lewes expenditure and income in the annual report.	NS/DW
2.5	Action point 4.11 – Amex stadium enforcement – NSL are being proactive, signs have been erected on the Falmer Road to prevent vehicles parking on the verges. In Lewes the car parks appear busier with income up but the level of penalty charges notices (PCNs) issued has not increased. JG stated that Lewes and the levels of enforcement on match days will continue to be monitored and adjusted if necessary.	
3.	Parking Contract Procurement	
3.1	The new contract is now in place. DW presented financial estimates for 2011/12 and projections for 2012/13 to show the benefits of the projected surplus under the new contract. The increased surplus for each year indicates a reduction in cost for the contract.	
3.2	Councillor St Pierre asked for this to be explained more. DW advised that there are efficiencies made for both Eastbourne and Lewes. Numbers of Civil Enforcement Officers have been reduced along with a supervisor and smarter ways of working are being introduced.	

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3.3	The figures also show a reduction in PCN income indicating that compliance has improved. Pay and Display income stays about the same.	
3.4	Councillor St Pierre advised that local businesses had told her there are now far fewer visitors to Lewes because of the level of enforcement. Councillor St Pierre asked if traffic numbers had been surveyed.	
3.5	NS confirmed that the off-street income had not seen a significant drop and DW confirmed the trends to be similar to other local authorities.	
3.6	Councillor Eiloart asked how the figures presented compared to previous years and would like to see figures for each year since the start of the scheme, including a breakdown of the income.	GK
4.	Operational Update	
4.1	JG presented the NSL operational report to members and summarised the content.	
4.2	Warning notices have been introduced this year helping to reduce the PCN cancellation rate. DW explained when and why a warning notice would be issued.	
4.3	JG confirmed the contravention codes with the higher level of PCNs issued follows the standards for the whole of the country.	
4.4	The new hand held device was discussed. Councillor Eiloart expressed concerns over the use of the camera and recording facility, would this not be covert surveillance.	
4.5	JG advised that full guidelines would be issued prior to the devices being introduced and assurances given.	JG
4.6	Councillor St Pierre stated that as the Councillors are representing members of the community, it was important to ensure that any contractors were acting appropriately.	
5.	Lewes Parking Review	
5.1	The first round of consultation took place in January and February. Atkins then carried out some on street data collecting and the second round of consultation with questionnaires to households and surgeries taking place in July and August. Atkins are now completing their recommendations, it is likely that there are no radical changes or extensions to the scheme. The most significant will be some changes to the zone boundaries, particularly the High Street area. It is also likely they will be recommending bank holiday charges cease. There will be some localised consultation taking place on the coastal strip.	
5.2	Councillor Eiloart asked if morning and evening times would be changed. JR confirmed that this had not been presented as an issue by Atkins.	
5.3	Councillor Eiloart expressed concern about residents and visitors having to move their cars before 9am.	

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5.4	Councillor St Pierre asked whether the hours of control were going to be the same for all or if some areas could still have different times.	
5.5	Councillor O'Keeffe asked about the hours of control for Houndean. JR advised that Atkins had not identified that it was imperative that the times of control were the same throughout the zones.	
5.6	The recommendations report will go the Scrutiny in November and then to Lead Member on 15 December. Further consultation would be available once the TROs are drawn up and advertised.	
5.7	Councillor Maynard asked how many TROs would be drawn up. JR confirmed there would only be two but each would be large and comprehensive.	
5.8	Councillor Eiloart stated that the Atkins questionnaires did not contain a question that asked "if people had difficulties parking?"	
5.9	NS advised that the Scrutiny report would also consider the overall effectiveness of the scheme.	
6.	AOB	
6.1	Councillor Eiloart asked why the contract was renewed in September and whether the review should have been completed first. The contract and the review are not connected, the new contract had to commence in September when the old one expired.	
6.2	SJ asked about the fake coinage now being reported by NSL and CCI. JG and AS have met with CCI to discuss the issues. The system has been introduced under new guidelines from the Royal Mint and the Bank of England. There is an invitation from CCI for our Auditors to visit and examine the procedures in place, LDC would also be welcome to attend the meeting at the same time.	DW/SJ
6.3	The next meeting will be scheduled for April next year, appointments to be sent out by the Parking team.	
6.4	JG presented examples of the proposed new uniform for the CEOs. Members agreed that the message pouch on the back of the high visibility wear was a good idea but would prefer to stick with the old uniform.	
	Next meeting to be held on 19 April 2012, 10am Room CC1, County Hall	