

## Parks

### Recommendation to Executive

That the Executive approves:

7. the advertising of an amendment to the Off Street Parking Order to introduce
  - (i) a four hour maximum stay in the car parks for Sutherland Memorial Park, Burpham, Kingston Meadows, East Horsley and Chantry Wood, Guildford, to apply Monday to Sunday between 6am and 8pm, with permits for relevant groups as described in paragraph 5.9 ,
  - (ii) the system of control described in paragraph 5.10 in the car parks around Stoke Park referred to as Nightingale Road, Wild Wood, Greenark, Burchatts Farm Barn and Guildford College,
  - (iii) controls describe in paragraph 5.13 to 5.17 for Millmead House and Lawn Road car parks
  - (iv) controls described in paragraph 5.18 in Merrow car park
8. that if any objections are received to the proposals in recommendation 7 that they are determined by the Director of Environment in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Governance and Infrastructure
9. that, in association with the recommendation in paragraph 7 (ii) above, the Director of Environment in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Infrastructure and Governance negotiates, and if acceptable terms are agreed, enters into an agreement with Guildford College to allow public parking in the whole car park outside the times it is required for educational purposes (as described in paragraph 5.12)

### Access to Parks

- 5.4 The Parks and Countryside section operate a number of car parks and the aim of these is to provide access to the parks and facilities within them. Increasingly the space is used by people working the local area, students and coach companies as a drop off and pick up for excursions. This is reducing access to the parks and causing problems for the clubs who use the facilities. The problem is growing and controls are needed to ensure people can access the parks.
- 5.5 The car parks with the greatest issues are Sutherland Memorial Park in Burpham, Kingston Meadows in East Horsley, Chantry Wood off Pilgrims Way Guildford and a number around Stoke Park, namely Nightingale Road, Wild Wood (including Lido Road), Greenark, Burchatts Farm Barn and Guildford College car park. Guildford College car park becomes a council car park for public use outside the times it is being used for educational purposes. The car park becomes a public car park in the evening, at weekends and during the college holidays. Our proposals for the College car park only relate to the times when it is for public use.
- 5.6 We have worked with our colleagues in Parks and Countryside to look at appropriate restrictions and the aim has been to control the use of the space to maintain free access to those visiting the parks. Groups using the parks support the need for controls.
- 5.7 Options considered include free limited waiting for a period up to four-hours. While a four-hour period provides long enough for most activities, it is not flexible. A limited

waiting period would also be very difficult and time consuming to enforce effectively with over 600 spaces in all the car parks being considered.

- 5.8 A variant on this is a free period supported by a pay and display ticket with a charge for any stay beyond the free period. Drivers would need to obtain a ticket or use pay by phone providing their registration number and the time they required. Each car would be restricted to one session per day. The charge at the end of the free period needs to be high enough to deter workers and others who currently stay for long periods and do not use the park. The average time people spend in Stoke Park is two and a half hours.
- 5.9 We recommend that the car parks at Kingston Meadow, East Horsley, Sutherland Memorial Park, Burpham and Chantry Wood, Guildford have a four hour limited waiting restriction, Monday to Sunday (seven days a week) with the controls applying from 6am to 8pm. In addition, it is proposed that passes will be issued to clubs and societies who need to use the car parks, so they can stay longer without charge.
- 5.10 For the car parks around Stoke Park, a free period of four hours is recommended with a charge of £5 for stays longer than four and up to six hours and a charge of £7 for stays beyond six hours. Again, it is proposed that the controls apply from 6am to 8pm Monday to Sunday. In addition, it is proposed that passes will be issued to clubs and societies who need to use the car parks so they can stay longer without charge.
- 5.11 In all the car parks, parking would be free and without time limit for blue badge holders.
- 5.12 To implement the change, an amendment to the off street parking order will need to be advertised and comments and objections considered by the Director of Environment and Lead Councillor. In addition, part of the Guildford College car park is owned by the college and cannot be operated separately from the major part of the car park, so an agreement will need to be reached with the college to operate this part. An initial discussion indicates they would support the proposal subject to a satisfactory agreement.

## **12. Financial Implications**

- 12.7 The cost of installing pay and display machines to support recommendation 7(ii) is estimated at £49,000. This can be found from the car park maintenance reserve. The running costs are estimated at £7,800 per year. It is not expected that there will be significant income from the pay and display car parks, because the intention is to discourage long stay users, but it is anticipated that some income will be obtained and this will cover the running costs. It is recommended that any additional income be used to maintain the car parks. The cost of signs for the car parks in recommendation 7 can be found from existing budgets.