

ESCC's JUNE 2011 CONSULTATION CONCERNING ON-STREET PARKING IN LEWES

Response of Friends of Lewes Society

- 1) This response should be read in conjunction with the Society's earlier response (attached), dated February 2011, on the need for changes in the on-street parking arrangements in Lewes.
- 2) The Society considers that a controlled parking zone is needed in the town. It welcomes the fact that it is proposed to have free parking in on-street bays on public holidays, and that the hours of operation in all zones should be changed to 9am to 5pm. It assumes that consideration has been given to the possibility of increased parking around the railway station when football matches are being played at Falmer.
- 3) The maps attached to the proposals are difficult to read and the key to them seems incomplete with the result that the differences with the present arrangements are not entirely clear.
- 4) It is noted that the overall area of the CPZ is being increased. It appears that this has become necessary in Malling and the western part of the town due to employees and visitors to Police HQ, the Prison and County Offices using the nearby streets to park their cars. The Society considers that pressure should be put on these establishments to encourage their employees and visitors to use bicycles, public transport (which may need to be improved to provide adequate opportunities) or provide better off street parking. Every effort should also be made to reduce the displacement from areas proposed to be include in the CPZ to adjacent uncontrolled areas.
- 5) More generally a holistic approach to parking in the town needs to be taken with serious discussion between the County and District Councils so that increased off street parking is provided to reduce the demand for on-street parking. This is particularly necessary in the town centre where Tesco, Aldi and Waitrose should be persuaded to maximise their provision. New off-street sites such as Malling Brooks should be considered as well as the decking of an existing car park close to the commercial centre of the town. Consideration should also be given to having notices showing when a car park is full and better provision made for the parking of visiting coaches. Better publicity of places to park should be made available particularly for those unfamiliar with the town attending the Crown Court, auction houses or functions at public places like Southover Grange.
- 6) Although it is stated that some residents of one zone will be able to purchase a permit for an adjacent zone the Society considers that this facility should be extended to all residents to purchase permits for any or all of the other zones so that social mobility is not impaired. It also needs to be clear that when purchasing a ticket just prior to the finish time it will be valid the next controlled day for the balance of time bought. Similarly facilities need to be available and published that tickets can be purchased during the non-controlled hours for use later that day.
- 7) The Society has not studied the specific proposals for parking bays and double yellow lines in detail and assumes that there have been discussions with the emergency services to ensure that the proposals do not impede their access. On specific locations it welcomes those proposed for Bell Lane and Montacute Road. It is disappointed that no reference appears to have been made to moving the yellow lines in Old Malling Way to the other side of the road to improve visibility and allow for better street cleaning. It also considers that the problems

caused for buses and other large vehicles in Brooks Road and Church Lane do not appear to have been addressed. It also questions why Ham Lane and parts of Cockshut Road are not included in the scheme and although the maps include Pinwell Road there is no current evidence of any restrictions there.

- 8) It is noted that there are no recommendations regarding charging but the Society reiterates the points made previously on this (para 7 of February 2011 note) and trusts that the current provision for 20 minutes free parking in various locations near local shops and the railway station will be maintained.
- 9) The Society has previously commented (para 8 of February 2011 note) on the rigid enforcement policy that is currently applied, and regrets that making this more flexible does not appear to be on the agenda. It suggests that the present 10 minute leeway time is increased to 15 and that enforcement officers are made aware of this. Where a PCN is being issued whilst the driver returns to the vehicle he should be able to purchase a further ticket for the excess period and have the PCN withdrawn on payment of a small surcharge. However, by contrast, more enforcement of parking restrictions outside school premises, particularly during the times when children are being dropped off or collected would improve safety and ease congestion. Another location where stricter enforcement is necessary is parking in front of the bollards in Castle Precinct as such vehicles often impede wheelchairs and prams from going from one side to the other of them.
- 10) One of the reasons why there is often daytime congestion in the High Street, Station Street and Fisher Street is the parking of delivery lorries. Consideration needs to be given to restricting the hours when deliveries can be made in these streets to times when there is less traffic around.
- 11) Mention has already been made in para 7 about street cleaning in Old Malling Way. Whilst a simple solution has been put forward for that location the problem of street cleaning in roads where vehicles are parked virtually continuously, such as in Southover Road and parts of Southover High Street needs to be addressed. Dates should be set aside and published when parking is not permitted in order to allow street cleaning to take place.
- 12) A number of other issues previously raised by the Society do not appear to have been considered. These include verge parking, provision for tradesmen and littering by out of date temporary closure notices.. These all remain issues where action needs to be taken