

Responses from Parish and Town Councils to Band 3 and Band 4 Opportunities

Band 3 Responses

Amesbury Town Council

21st October 2010

Joanne,

A question raised by councillors re. the main car park in Amesbury was whether the Town Council would be able to purchase the car park?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Wendy Bown
Town Clerk

25th October 2010

Dear Joanne

Thank you for your reply.

In response to your original email, Amesbury Town Council is unable to consider purchasing car parking spaces at such a high cost of £500 per space per annum.

Regards

Wendy Bown
Town Clerk

Corsham Town Council

27th September 2010

Hi Joanne,

Here's the minute of our Council meeting held on 9 August -

102/10 Wiltshire Council Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 Parking Strategy – Consultation Draft (*Minute AMEN 19/10*)

Further to the Amenities Committee meeting on 28 July 2010 it was recommended that the Town Council responds to some of the specific questions in the survey and that individuals be encouraged to complete the questionnaire in full.

Resolved

That the following responses be made

- i) *Question 9 – Buy Back* - Corsham Town Council does not agree that town and parish councils should be given the opportunity to buy back a small proportion of short-stay spaces from Wiltshire Council to offer as free parking spaces;
- ii) *Question 26 – Parking Charges (Mon-Sat)* – Corsham Town Council does not support any of the proposals for off-street charges (Mon-Sat) in Band Three Towns as the first hour should be free;
- iii) *Question 28 - Parking Charges (Sundays)* - Corsham Town Council does not support any proposals for off-street Sunday charges in Band Three Towns.

I hope it helps.

David J Martin
Town Clerk

Melksham Town Council

30th November 2010

Joanne.

The information you provided was submitted to Councillors last evening. As a result I am e- mailing you to say that the Town Council will not be taking up the option to purchase free parking spaces. The main reason for this being the budget constraints we are facing and the costs involved.

Thanks for your help to date.

John

John Crook
Town Clerk

28th October 2010

Joanne

Melksham town Council considered the buy-out option for Band 3 at a recent meeting.

This is what they agreed:

RESOLVED: To inform Wiltshire Council that the Town Council would wish to express a firm interest in the Wiltshire Council Scheme to buy out free parking spaces, whilst recognising this expression of interest is non-binding. It was also agreed to seek the following information from Wiltshire Council

- Would these spaces be free all day or for 1 hour a day or at the Town Council's discretion?.
- What conditions would apply with regard to enforcement?
- Would the Town Council have to buy out an entire car park for this scheme to work?
- Would this mean the expansion of the 1 hour free to all car parks in Melksham and the provision of free parking on Sundays and Public/Bank holidays.

Hope this is ok and that you can let me have answers in due course. The important thing is there is interest at this end.

John Crook
Town Clerk

Warminster Town Council

20th September 2010

Warminster Town Councillors feel unable to participate in Wiltshire Council's on-line Car Parking consultation for the reasons given below:

1. The format of the consultation is seriously flawed.
2. The Council cannot subscribe to the underlying tenet of the policy.

The format of the consultation

The format consists mostly of describing fairly complex (in some cases page-long) policies to be adopted county-wide, followed by a simple "Do you agree, yes/no?" question. This offers no flexibility for developing, describing and submitting a train of thought/opinion unless it is entirely coherent with the Unitary Council's chosen policies, As such it is considered to be a Leading Questionnaire in every sense of the phrase.

The underlying tenet of the policy - namely the declared need to “Harmonise” Parking charges and policies across the county of Wiltshire.

Town Councillors challenged the Unitary Council portfolio holder, Councillor Tonge on this requirement on 11th June and also at a subsequent Area Board Meeting, but he was unable to provide a definitive explanation as to why it is necessary — simply that we should all accept that it is. It is noted that this fundamental tenet is “not for discussion” in the Parking Consultation. Warminster Town Council fundamentally rejects this underlying policy, especially the manner in which it is being inflicted upon the county, and believes it not to be in the interests of the people.

Prior to April 2010, rural towns such as Warminster developed their parking arrangements (capacity, charging regime etc) according to their NEED, whilst also reflecting the specific geographic and other factors which are unique to the town.

Parking arrangements need to be considered and managed in a context which specifically reflects the needs of the townspeople, traders and visitors — a cross-section which is different for every town and conurbation. The imposition of “harmonising policies” completely ignores this basic facet (e.g. Salisbury has “Park and Ride” because it meets the need of that conurbation and this seems to be supported by the Unitary Council even though it is non-harmonising): Warminster does not need “Park and Ride” but it does need readily accessible parking facilities that reflect the fact that the town serves a hinterland of around 25 outlying villages, almost all of which have been denuded of retail and postal facilities over the last two decades.

The financial focus of the proposals serve to indicate that Wiltshire Council seeks, first and foremost, to use the parking assets of Warminster to raise money for the Unitary Council, irrespective of the damage this may do to the viability of the town. Such a short-term view can be highly damaging. A town that has its commercial viability destroyed by ill-conceived parking policies (in the name of “harmonisation”) will not provide income to Unitary Council from parking fees, since no-one will want to visit it.

Warminster Town Council believes that the Unitary Council’s Harmonisation policies will serve to significantly damage the commercial viability of the town. As such, and bearing in mind the responsibility of elected Councillors to consider the needs and, especially, viability of the town, the council believes that Warminster should be excluded from this damaging and ill-conceived harmonisation programme.

This council therefore requests that Warminster Town car parking assets under Wiltshire Council control be transferred to Warminster Town Council, as a community asset, so that the Town Council can run them for the benefit of the town, in preference to being a money-making scheme for the Unitary Council.

Heather Abernethie MILCM
Town Clerk

Westbury Town Council

2nd November 2010

Dear Madam

Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026: Parking Strategy - Consultation

Following on from our recent telephone conversation whereby it was agreed that our response could be delayed until the matter was discussed at the Town Council meeting on the 1st November, the resolution unanimously passed by this Council was to reject Wiltshire Council's proposal that we buy free parking at £500.00 per space.

The Council would still like to emphasise that in line with our response to the consultation document on parking strategy we believe that we should have been placed in Band 4, and although we agree that Westbury is a market town, it does not enjoy such a strong economy as towns such as Marlborough, Devizes and Bradford-on-Avon.

Additionally, and notwithstanding our earlier reply to the consultation, this Council would like to advise you that we agree wholeheartedly with the letter and sentiments contained therein sent to you by Warminster Town Council dated 20th September 2010.

Kind regards

Keith Harvey
Town Clerk

Band 4 Responses

Box Parish Council

5th October 2010

Dear Sir,

Car Parking Strategy - Consultation

I refer to our previous correspondence and can confirm that the Car Parking Strategy — Consultation document was discussed at the Parish Council at its meeting on 30th September.

The Box Parish Council has strong concerns about the manner in which the consultation process has been undertaken and the brevity of the consultation period, bearing in mind that Parish Councils only meet one a month or less. The consultation period did not give the Parish Council sufficient time to obtain all the necessary information to be able to make an informed decision. It was felt that for

a consultation of this importance, all Parish and Town Councils should have received a printed copy of the document and not just a link to a website via an email.

The Wiltshire Council owned car park in Box is a small 24 spaced car park in the centre of the village and the Parish Council feels that this is a different position compared to other areas. Villages in the more rural areas are more reliant on the use of cars and it is felt that this is not being supported by the current proposals.

Car parking for residents, businesses, shops, school, playgroups, pubs etc in Box is at a premium and the introduction of car parking charges will have an adverse impact on the viability of the village as a whole and all of the current users in particular.

The present parking arrangement in the car park in Box has worked well for a considerable number of years.

After taking into consideration the views expressed by members of the parish, the Parish Council would like to enter into negotiations with the Wiltshire Council to find a way to prevent the imposition of car parking charges. Before making a firm decision as to whether to take over the maintenance or not the Parish Council feels that it would need to see the terms of the proposed Lease and be in possession of all the *facts* and figures and the impact it would have on the Parish Precept.

Yours faithfully,

Margaret Carey
Clerk

3rd November 2010

Dear Ms Heal

Car Parking Strategy

The Box Parish Council discussed the draft Framework for a Lease at its meeting on 28th October and its comments are as follows:

- Term of Lease - it is felt that the period suggested of two years is too short if the Parish Council was expected to maintain the surface and walls. The Parish Council feels that this should preferably be for a ten year period with a five year break clause.
- There is confusion over the different reference to insurance in points 1 and 2. Would the car park be covered under the Wiltshire Council public liability policy. There needs to be clarification on what the figure quoted by you for insurance (£72 - £3 per space) actually covers. Why will the cost of electricity and insurance escalate by the increase in the level of Council Tax? Surely any increase would be set by the electricity provider or the insurance company.

The Parish Council would also need to assess how much extra it would have to pay to cover the walls etc and for this we would need some form of valuation. Also who would be responsible for any excess payments?

- The Parish Council would wish to have a letter verifying which walls it would be responsible for.
- Any condition survey carried out must include the walls and the surface and any defects made good prior to handover.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Carey
Clerk

Cricklade Town Council

21st September 2010

Dear Cllr Tonge

Car Parking Strategy

I have been asked to write to you formally to thank you for taking the time to visit us on 31st August regarding the future plans for car parking in Cricklade and in particular the Wiltshire Council owned Town Hall Car Park in our High Street.

There has now been an opportunity for members to discuss this formally. The offer made to hand this area to the Town on a two year lease was unanimously rejected. Members did not feel that Wiltshire Council sufficiently understood the requirements of the Town.

I have been asked to request whether any impact assessment had been undertaken on the effect this would have on the Town particularly the consequences of moving off-street parking to on- Street parking which is currently available in the vicinity? Also whether any business case has been made for the introduction of charges on a small car park that was unlikely to be recouped? The outlay in terms of machines, signage, on-going maintenance and emptying, and increased enforcement necessary, at a time when enforcement elsewhere in the town is seen to be lacking, would suggest that charging would not be cost effective.

I look forward to hearing from you. You also promised to provide the overall insurance costs for the car park for information.

Yours sincerely

John Coole
Assistant Town Clerk

27th October 2010

Joanne

Thanks for your e-mail.

Cricklade Town Council has already confirmed that the initial offer made was unsatisfactory to them and their position has not changed. However I understand that some other proposals may be forthcoming and I have also been instructed to make contact with the Town Hall Committee who run the community hall that is attached to the car park to obtain their views and position in this matter.

Cricklade Town Council continue to feel that the initial consultation and the lack of an impact assessment on charging means that Wiltshire Council do not have sufficient information on the local issues to make a balanced decision.

John Coole
Assistant Town Clerk

Mere Parish Council

28th September 2010

Dear Mr Murphy

With reference to your email of 31st August, I can confirm that an extra meeting of the Parish Council was held on Wednesday, 22nd September. At that meeting, the Parish Council resolved to ask Wiltshire Council to agree to enter into negotiations to enable the Parish Council to form a business plan to administer and manage the two car parks in Mere. This is subject to the potential resolution of Wiltshire Council's cabinet meeting, to be held in December, that Wiltshire Council will pursue car parking charges in Band 4 car parks and, more specifically, in Mere.

Lindsey Wood,
Parish Clerk

Pewsey Parish Council

28th September 2010

Dear Sir

In response to the section of Wiltshire Council's Parking Strategy consultation document relating to Town and Parish Councils, Pewsey Parish Council, as a Band 4 village, wishes to express an interest in the possible leasehold of the two car parks in Pewsey, namely the North Street car park and Hallgate House car park. Please proceed with moving forward with the draft lease terms and details

of the operational and management costs etc.

Regards

Alison Keers
Clerk

27th October 2010

Dear Joanne

Pewsey Parish Council has several questions relating to the attached draft framework which it is hoped you can help with.

1. Please could you clarify the exact nature of the insurance costs. As we understand it the Parish Council will have to pay an insurance premium to Wiltshire Council. What does this insurance cover? Does the Parish Council have to include the car park in its own insurance and what other liabilities, if any, have to be paid? The draft suggests that third party insurance will be payable in addition to the premium to WC.

2. As the Parish Council will become responsible for enforcement can the parish make its own regulations, issue notices and potentially bank any fines that could be applied?

Kind regards

Alison Keers
Clerk

Tisbury Town Council

26th October 2010

Dear Cllr Tonge

Nadder Close Car Park Management and Operation

Tisbury Parish Councillors have now met to discuss the Wiltshire Council offer to allow the Nadder Close Car Park operation to be managed by this parish council as an alternative to parking charges being introduced.

I can confirm that Tisbury Parish Councillors are currently minded to accept the Wiltshire Council offer relating to the car park and have resolved to progress the transfer of management and operation of the car park from the 1st April 2011, subject to satisfactory conditions and terms of the lease.

However, the decision was resolved on the basis that the lease would be for a period of 10 years, and not 2 years, as this was our understanding following our

meeting in August; the other expectations are broadly in line with the draft framework for the car park lease. Although not likely to be an insurmountable problem, the current resolution offers no leeway on the term of the lease and this will need to be discussed further at the Tisbury PC meeting on 2nd November 2010. Perhaps you would be good enough to let me know if there is likely to be any flexibility at all in the period of the lease offered. Please let me know if this causes you any difficulty.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sandra Harry
Clerk

Wilton Town Council

6th October 2010

Dear Cllr Tonge

Re: Option for Wilton Town Council to take on the car parks in Wilton.

I write with reference to Wiltshire Council's consultation exercise regarding its Parking Strategy and your recent visit to the Town Council where you highlighted the option for the Town Council to take on the ownership and maintenance of the two car parks in Wilton, located at South Street and the Market Square.

The Town Council held a public meeting in September, as it realised that the transfer of these assets into the Town Council's ownership would have implications for the local precept.

At the meeting, it was very clear that the public would prefer the status quo to be upheld, ie that the car parks should remain under Wiltshire Council's control, and free of charge. However, if this were not possible, then the public wanted the Town Council to take on the ownership of the Market Square car park and the lease of the South Street car park, and run them for the benefit of both the local business and non-business community. It was accepted that the local precept would have to increase.

At the Town Council meeting last night, the members took note of the public's opinion. They were strongly against the idea of introducing car parking charges anywhere in Wilton, both in the car parks and surrounding residential roads, and would prefer the status quo to remain.

However, the Town Council resolved that if this is untenable, then it would be prepared to take on the ownership of the Market Square car park, together with the area between the Health Centre and Market Cross/churchyard. The Council would enter into its own arrangements with Wilton Estate regarding the South Street car park. Any attempts to introduce car parking charges elsewhere in Wilton would be strongly resisted and an assurance from Wiltshire Council is requested to this effect.

The Town Council would also like to be consulted in any future car parking strategy that Wiltshire Council may undertake.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A C Purves
Town Clerk