

Framlingham Town Council
Parking Strategy

Current Situation- August 2018
Report to the Town Council

Overall Background.

The Parking Strategy proposal for Framlingham, together with evidence based information was presented to Council at the Town Council meeting in February. Approval was given to progress the individual elements of the strategy, discuss with SCDC and report back to the council. This paper presents the latest developments and an update on progress.

Recent Developments.

Suffolk County Council released “The Suffolk Parking Management Strategy” in May 2018 following a period of public consultation in March / April. The Strategy covers both “off street” and “on Street” parking and sets out specific policies and guidelines for the county of Suffolk and forms an addendum to the Suffolk Local Transport Plan(LTP3) 2011-2031.

Suffolk Coastal District Council (East Suffolk) released the East Suffolk Area Parking Plan (ESAPP) in late June 2018 for public consultation which will conclude at the end of August. The ESAPP provides greater detail on how the Suffolk Parking Management Strategy will be implemented locally. Framlingham Town Council approved the consultation response prepared by the parking WG at the Aug FTC mtg. We have received a response from SCDC to the points we made and these were discussed at the WG meeting on 22nd Aug.

Civil Parking Enforcement (C.P.E.) - An application was submitted by SCC to the D.f.T on 25th April 2018 to allow civil parking enforcement for the whole of Suffolk to commence from the 8th April 2019. Getting agreement will provide an important tool for local authorities in Suffolk to effectively manage car parking on the highway as well as in council run car parks.

The Framlingham Parking Strategy.

The following 7 point strategy was presented at the February FTC meeting :-

Create up to 100 additional car parking spaces at The Framlingham Sports Club , with low cost, permit only parking for employees of Framlingham registered businesses from Monday to Saturday, during business hours.

Increase overall car parking capacity both in the town and on the edge of the town including, where and if possible, the expansion of The Elms car park.

Introduce, manage and enforce a standardised “pay and display” scale of charges for both The Elms and Fore St car parks (no free period). Both car parks will have the possibility of long term parking permits.

Introduce, manage and enforce a “free for 2 hours” parking policy with no parking for longer periods on The Co-op car park and a “free for 1 hour”, time ticket display parking policy with no parking for longer periods on The Market Hill car park.

Implement a “residents parking permit” scheme for the “inner town zone” which will include Castle St, Double St, Church St and Fore St or parts thereof.

Introduce C.P.E. (Civil Parking Enforcement) regulations throughout the town for both on street and off street (designated public car parks) parking.

Implement new and improved signs for all car parks.

Current Situation – August 2018

- 1. The provision of additional parking spaces at the Framlingham Sports Club was the subject of negative comment from Sports England during the consultation on the proposed community centre. The matter of unique reserved parking for business users on the periphery of the training pitch or as an extension to the existing car park needs to be revisited with the Sports Club and Sports England. In the short term the existing parking licensing agreement between the FSC and the FBA ,which isn't currently used by the FBA members, requires investigation as to why and new proposals made.**
- 2. On the 3 May the Town Council approved the proposal to conduct a topographical, engineering and cost survey to examine the possibility of expanding The Elms car park. This survey has now been completed, drawings have been prepared by structural engineers and a budget cost has been established. This matter will be brought to full Council at the September council meeting for as requested.**
- 3. The proposal to introduce, manage and enforce a 'standardised' pay and display scale of charges meets with both the SCC Parking Management Strategy and East Suffolk Area Parking Plan Proposals. Discussions with SCDC (East Suffolk) who are the enforcement authority are ongoing with regard to timing, funding, revenue share and management. The Elms car park owner, Framlingham College has been fully briefed, continues to be supportive of the strategy and is now awaiting details of the service agreement from East Suffolk/Norse. The part owners of the car park and owners of the land providing access have been briefed by the council and the College but it is necessary to update them with the information in the service agreement when this becomes available.**
- 4. i) The Co-op car park will not be designated as a public car park and will not therefore require parking enforcement by SCDC/Norse. The Co-op have stated that they are fully supportive of the Framlingham Parking Strategy proposals and will ensure that their 'free for 2 hours' position is maintained and enforced by their own security systems. They await the timing for implementation of the other parking measures in the town and will fully co-operate.
ii) The proposal for Market Hill of a 'free for 1 hour' time ticket display policy is supported by East Suffolk (SCDC), however, the economics of investing in enforcement/ticket machines without any revenue return is being questioned. The possibility of charging for a further 1 hour or 2 hour period with no return within x hours is favoured. The Market Hill car park will also be subject to a service agreement with SCDC/Norse and a full financial evaluation will be carried out before a final proposal is made.**
- 5. Implementation of a residents or 'Controlled Parking Zone' (CPZ) is accepted in principle and is part of the East Suffolk Area Parking Plan, currently subject of a public consultation. The Working Group is currently finalising proposals for the operating procedures, tariffs, operating hours etc. and they will be discussed with SCDC when it is appropriate to do so and prior to a selective consultation with residents in the CPZ area in October / November 2018.**

6. **With regard to civil parking enforcement- discussions with SCDC are at an advanced stage and we are awaiting their Service Agreement Proposals for both The Elms and Market Hill car parks.**

SCDC have suggested that Framlingham will be one of the trial 'sites' for 'off street' CPE implementation in the late Autumn of this year and we are continuing to work with them to achieve this. 'On street' CPE is due for implementation from April 2019 and our next step as a Town Council will be to agree what needs to be done in Framlingham and agree when exactly changes will be implemented. A key objective in the preparation for 'on street' CPE is to establish that all current parking restrictions in the town are recorded correctly on the Highways data base. Work on this has commenced with a complete audit and report to the Highways authority of all yellow lines and parking restriction notices in the town.

What are the next steps.

Discuss the current FBA / FSC parking agreement with the FBA.

Re-open discussions with the FSC re short term and possible long term parking provision for business employees.

Facilitate the service agreement discussions between SCDC/Norse and Framlingham College for The Elms and FTC and SCDC/Norse for Market Hill.

Meet with the part owner of The Elms re the above.

Report to FTC re The Elms car park and agree next steps.

Agree with Framlingham College the contractual terms and conditions that would apply if we were to extend The Elms car park at public cost.

Prepare the brief for “selective” consultation if approved by council.

Brief The Co-op on latest developments

Continue to work with SCDC on all aspects of CPE and prepare the detailed action plan for implementation.

Finalise the details of the Framlingham RPZ proposals and consult with SCDC prior to residents survey.

**Cllr J.A.Jones
Chair – Parking Working Group
23 August 2018**