

Colyton Neighbourhood Plan - Public Car Parking

Notes of public consultation meeting held in Colyton Town Hall, 10th May 2108 commencing at 1030am

1 The purpose of the meeting was explained. Whilst it was emphasised that the consultation was specifically related to the Colyton Parish Neighbourhood Plan which included Colyford, all matters relating to public car parking could be discussed.

2 The timing for progression of the Neighbourhood Plan was outlined with specific reference to the possibility of further comment during the future consultation process.

3 Comments detailed below are in no order of priority -

(a) Double parking in certain areas of Market Place was acceptable and sensible.

(b) On road parking was causing dangers such as on Sidmouth Road especially at the beginning or end of the school day.

(c) Parking for schools both in Colyton and Colyford was very problematical with no proper car parking provision at either school.

(d) Colyton Grammar School is expanding without any apparent regard for issues relating to parking for buses and cars. It was suggested that some provision for a new school car park, within walking distance, must be made although there was no identification of where such a car park could be provided.

(e) The loss of the Ceramtec site and its parking was causing major problems both in the town centre and nearby streets.

(f) Many attendees complained of vehicles being parked for long periods of time outside their homes. This also applied to commercial vehicles some of which had remained in the same place for many consecutive months. It was suggested that in certain areas double yellow lines should apply eg Sidmouth Road.

(g) A residents' only permit parking scheme was discussed with mixed response but overall it was thought such a scheme should be explained in more detail and properly considered.

(h) Agreed that existing public car park should be better utilised and the Council should be approached to give at least the 1st hour free to encourage usage. It was pointed out that the existing car park land was originally "given for nothing" and therefore free parking would not be unreasonable.

(i) Similarly it was agreed that consideration should be given to introducing parking restrictions in Market Place such as parking for 1 hour

(j) Concern was expressed at the enforcement of any parking restrictions, yellow lines, etc..

(k) It was also thought that restrictive parking 'speeds up' traffic.

(l) Safe pathways was also a concern although it was accepted that on many streets or roads, little or nothing could be done because of the configuration and location of houses in very close proximity to the highways.

(m) It was agreed that better signposting for commercial vehicles was essential as accidents had occurred with houses and walls being damaged by commercial vehicles who appeared to be heavily reliant on sat nav systems. The banning of commercial vehicles on certain streets and roads was suggested as was clearly identifiable commercial vehicle routes. Weight restrictions should also be considered.

(n) It was proposed that as a result of the comments/suggestions made, a meeting should be held with the Highways Agency and EDDC/DCC to raise the issues which could not be tackled via the Neighbourhood Plan.

(o) It was agreed, by all attendees, that the Town required additional and new off street car parking with the Ceramtec site being the only viable and relevant option. This is to be raised at any meeting involving the proposed development of this site including the planned meeting with HCA. It was emphasised that the Ceramtec site redevelopment represented a once in a generation opportunity to resolve many issues including public car parking. It was suggested that residents should be allowed to attend meetings with HCA, EDDC, etc

(p) Other new car park options considered were extending the existing car park, extending the car park at Reece Strawbridge Centre, using car parking at St John's Hall, using the land over Chantry Bridge which is presently occupied by an underutilised play park and picnic area. None of these options were considered viable as they were either too far from the Town centre or relied upon acquiring private land which would probably be too small for significant additional car parking. No suggestions for additional car parking within Colyford area were put forward.

4 It was agreed that notes of the meeting would be circulated to those attendees who provided a detailed postal or email address.

16 May 2018