

PARKING TASK AND FINISH GROUP INTERIM REPORT TO DOWNS COMMITTEE

PURPOSE OF THE T&F

To explore all options to find a solution or solutions to the following problems :

- Closure of the Zoo and subsequent loss of income from the (previously named) North Carpark;
- Illegal parking on the roads on the Downs;
- Clarify legal position of the North carpark in light of the JR settlement.

OPTIONS BEING EXPLORED

1. P&D carpark at the old car park site

Turn the previously named North Car Park into a pay and display car park called the Downs Car Park.

Vehicles would be able to park for up to 5 hours and would be using the carpark to access the Downs for recreation. Charges would help to support maintenance of the Downs.

Downs Committee members of the T&F are in discussion with two providers:

1. A private organisation, which would fund all of the infrastructure costs:
2. BCC will also tender to implement a P&D on the site.

Full details are not yet provided but will be reported to the Committee, hopefully at the AGM or at the following meeting.

While details of the providers is being sought, in parallel, legal advice is being sought to ensure that we are not outwith our permissions relating to the 1861 Act.

2. Van-dwellers on the Downs

This problem seems unresolvable without some change to parking regulations or a change to the enforcement processes.

The present regulations allow vehicles to park for up to 5 hours and not return within 2 Hours. This makes enforcement difficult.

Options being looked at include:

- Reducing the hours and/or reducing the time frame for a return to park in the same position;
- Improving enforcement if vehicles obviously are stationary and exploring how this could be enforced;
- Introduce P&D on all roads on the Downs with a limit of 2 hours (to include a free 30 minute option)
- Use of meanwhile sites for van dwellers who would be displaced.

CONSULTATION

Traffic Regulation Order/s (TRO) will be needed to make parking changes and these have mandatory consultation as part of the process. However, we are keen to understand stakeholders' views and are aware that no option for change is without negative consequences for some. To that end, we invite comments via our public forum, recognising the time-limits and capacity of the Chair to answer individual questions.