

Minutes of the Parking Strategy Steering Group

Venue: Westwoods Centre

Date: 14 March 2023, 6pm

Present:

Chris Hancock (Group Chairman)
Brian Hulcup
Patrick McHugh
Tim Poole
Andrea Richell
Julie Russell
Andrew Wellman

Absent/apologies:

Byron Hadley
Adrian Morley-Blackwell

Pauline Rigby (Clerk)

Tony Dale (Ward Cllr, observer)
Two members of the public

1. Welcome / Apologies for absence

As above

2. Declaration of interests

Tony Dale and Chris Hancock declared an interest as their houses front Market Place.

AR and PM declared an interest as they have businesses on the Market Place.

Two members of the public pointed out that they lived or worked on The Green.

3. Minutes of last meeting

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 13 December 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record.

Matters arising: Business owners had agreed to produce an analysis of how their businesses support the local economy. AR said could only speak for her own business and figures had been circulated. PM would seek to do likewise.

4. Identification of issues and areas for improvement in and around The Green

Issues identified include:

- It is difficult and potentially dangerous for pedestrians as there is no footpath from the Market Place. Visitors ignore road signs, especially cyclists, and there is confusion over the Give Way behind Cotswold Stores.
- Cars are often seen driving around looking for parking spots. Parked vehicles e.g. delivery lorries, prevent entry onto The Green. Access to The Green mixes cars

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and pedestrians without good vision or sufficient space. Disabled access is poor. There are no litter bins; street lighting is poor.

- A resident of The Green pointed out that while not disagreeing with the issues, anything that would take away parking could be a disaster. All additional dwellings have been built with no new parking; few properties have off-road parking. Holiday accommodation has added to the parking pressure. Resident's parking permits would probably find favour.
- To eradicate parking issues on The Green, parking is required elsewhere, she proposed with timed parking on the Market Place and residents only parking on The Green. Two-hour parking on the Market Place was proposed; a restriction would also be useful outside the butcher's shop to allow access where necessary.
- Road down centre of the Market Place is a nightmare as delivery vehicles try to use it and cannot make the turn at the top. Council bin lorries leave without collecting if they cannot get through.

5. Review of plans and concepts from J Russell

JR produced 3 concepts to inspire discussion. Concept A was the most conservative; concept C the most pedestrian friendly. There was some concern concept C may leave inadequate parking for residents and businesses on MP. Going from 33 to 20 spaces may lose customers. The balance between shoppers' and residents' needs and longer term parking needs to be right.

Aesthetics are important; we want it to look nice. Neighbourhood Plan requires improvement to the public realm in return for new public parking provision. Spaces sacrificed can be replaced but further away, which will help more than it hinders.

It was agreed that management of spaces is important; the space could be managed better than it is now and to everyone's advantage. Currently parking is benefiting people who don't live here who just use it because it's free e.g. travelling to Oxford.

CH reported that Gloucestershire County Council would support restricted 2-hour parking on the Market Place as that would benefit businesses and residents.

A professional traffic survey will be required – which can pick up journey types and times. This will inform any new design and changes to parking arrangements and provide good data to support decision making. Whilst some will be against any reduction in Market Place parking, there is a need to optimise the number of spaces, manage them in the best way and balance with aesthetics.

Whatever changes are made on the Market Place and Green would have a knock-on effect which would require protection for houses without off road parking.

6. Date And Time of Next Meeting

Weds 26 April, 6pm in the Westwoods Centre.

The meeting closed at 7:20 pm

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