

TO: Planning and Environment Committee

FROM: Residents Parking Policy Review Working Party

MEETING DATE: 1 March 2010

SUBJECT: **REVIEW OF RESIDENTS PARKING POLICY**

SUMMARY

At its meeting held on 16 November 2009 the Planning and Environment Committee established a Working Party to “work with staff on reviewing the issues around residents parking, and to report back to the Planning and Environment Committee with recommendations by 31 March 2010.” The Working Party has now completed this work and this report recommends that there be no change to the Residents Parking Policy.

IMPLICATIONS FOR:

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| (i) Policy: | No |
| (ii) Approved Annual Budget: | No |
| (iii) LTCCP / Funding Policy: | No |
| (iv) Activity Management Plans: | No |
| (v) Community Boards: | No |

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received.
2. That the notes of the Residents Party Working Party meeting held on 23 November 2009 and the minutes of the Residents Working Party meeting held on 7 December 2009 be noted.
3. That no change be made to the Residents Parking Policy.

INTRODUCTION

Complaints were received with respect to the Residents Parking Policy when the new policy was implemented in November 2008 and again when the Parking Strategy was implemented in July 2009. The Parking Review Working Party which reported back to the Council on 5 November 2009 recommended that complaints with respect to Residents Parking should be referred to the Planning and Environment Committee.

At its meeting on 16 November 2009 the Planning and Environment Committee considered a report on the process to consider residents parking issues and moved:

- 1. That the report be received.**
- 2. That the Planning and Environment Committee establish a Working Party of three Councillors to work with staff on reviewing the issues around residents parking, and to report back to the Planning and Environment Committee with recommendations by 31 March 2010.**
- 3. That the membership be Councillors Guest (Chair), Walls and Acklin.**

The Working Party has now met on two occasions and considered all the issues raised.

BACKGROUND

The Council introduced a residents parking scheme in 1991 to address parking issues for those living above the central city and whose ability to park near their properties was impacted on by commuter parking. The policy was reviewed in 1997 and remained unchanged until the adoption of the Parking Strategy and revised Residents Parking Policy in July 2008.

The revised Residents Parking Policy was implemented in December 2008. The revised policy removed residents parking privileges for residents within the central activity area and some residents in the Central Activity Area then raised concerns that they had lost their residents parking privilege.

A further concern arose when the parking strategy was implemented and in some areas free parking was replaced with paid parking. In addition, Mr Roy Kenny of 88 York Place had raised issues over changes to the residents parking scheme and had elevated these to the Ombudsman. Following dialogue between the Ombudsman and Council it was accepted Mr Kenny's issues would be considered as part of the Residents Parking Review.

The Working Party has met on two occasions to consider all issues raised with respect to residents parking. Mr Kenny was invited to present his issues to the Working Party and answer questions from Working Party members.

As part of this work the Working Party undertook a comprehensive review of inner city living and identified from consent records that there were in excess of 270 apartments in the CAA, principally located south of the Octagon. There was also discussion on the intent of the residents parking scheme introduced in 1991 which was to provide parking opportunities for residents living on the slopes above the city who were impacted on by the daily influx of commuters.

DISCUSSION

The Working Party was mindful that the change in the residents parking policy meant some residents in the central activity area who had residents parking privileges lost these. This was the principal concern raised by apartment owners who argued the change in policy resulting in their loss of residents parking has impacted on their ability to rent out their premises, thus financially impacting on them. The working party were also mindful that with increased residential activity within the central activity area allowing residents parking privileges in the central activity area would severely impact on the on street paid parking reservoir.

When the parking strategy was implemented, all residents parking bays within the paid parking area were removed. As the paid parking area extends into residential zones, any applicants living on residentially-zoned land where there is paid parking, were offered the choice of an exempt permit which entitles them to free unrestricted parking on any metered space in the street, or space in a residents parking bay outside the paid parking area boundary.

The working party consider the intent of the Council's residents parking policy has always been to cater for the needs of inner city residents in areas affected by commuter parking, ie the residential suburbs on the hills above the central activity area, and that it was never intended to cater for the parking needs of apartment dwellers within the central activity area. It is recognised that the value of any apartment is influenced by whether or not parking is supplied. The working party considered these facts and reached the view it was not the Council's role to provide cheap on-street parking for apartments within the central activity area and noted that secure off-street parking is available for long term lease both from the Council and private providers. They were also conscious of the fact that many other apartment owners in the central activity area had been denied residents parking through the resource consent process and that the growing number of apartments in the central activity area meant allowing for residents parking within the paid parking area would increasingly impact on the availability of paid parking on-street.

CONCLUSION

Having given consideration to all of these issues, the Working Party considers the present Residents Parking Policy should not change.

Michael Guest

Chair, Residents Parking Policy Review Working Party

Date report prepared: 17 February 2010

Attachments

1. Notes of Working Party Meeting held on 23 November 2009
2. Minutes of Working Party meeting held on 7 December 2009

ATTACHMENT 1

INFORMAL NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESIDENTS' PARKING WORKING PARTY HELD ON MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 9.00AM IN THE RATA ROOM, 6TH FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE.

PRESENT: Crs Michael Guest (Chair), Bill Acklin and Richard Walls, Don Hill (Manager Transportation Planning), Daphne Griffen (Team Leader Parking Enforcement) and Jane Hinkley (Governance Support Officer).

The current Resident's Parking Policy and the previous Policy were discussed.

Staff answered questions regarding the definition of commuter parking, why the Council did not guarantee one park per resident, parking in residential vs commercial zones, affected streets, and the cases for parking for a resident home-owner, as opposed to a non resident apartment owner and a resident apartment tenant, and resource consent issues.

Following discussion on the issues, it was **agreed** to concentrate on the "paid parking areas".

The following further information was required:

- Pressure Points – eg View Street, Moray Place, Bond Street, and Dowling Street plus University area pressure points
- Map out - apartments where permits have been issued; pressure points of complaints – numbers and availability of street parking
- Resource consents for apartments etc Station Apartments
- Numbers of those who had permits in the past and who lost them

It was agreed to meet again on **Monday 7 December 2009** at **9.00am** in the **Mayors Lounge** to assess the information

ATTACHMENT 2

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RESIDENTS PARKING WORKING PARTY HELD IN THE MAYOR'S LOUNGE, CIVIC CENTRE ON MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2009 COMMENCING AT 9.00 AM

PRESENT: Cr Michael Guest (Chair), Cr Bill Acklin, Cr Richard Walls

IN ATTENDANCE: Tony Avery (General Manager City Environment), Don Hill (Transportation Planning Manager), Kevin Thompson (Development Services Manager), Daphne Griffen (Team Leader Parking Enforcement) and Jane Hinkley (Governance Support Officer)

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 MINUTES

It was moved (Guest/Acklin):

"That the notes of the meeting held on 23 November 2009 be confirmed as a correct record."

Motion carried

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

It was moved (Guest/Acklin):

"That the agenda be confirmed without additions or alterations."

Motion carried

4 SUMMARY OF ROY KENNY ISSUES

The summary provided on the agenda was noted. Mr Hill and Mr Avery answered questions regarding the consultation process undertaken on the Parking Strategy, the Resident Parking Policy and how this had changed, and Mr Kenny's requests. It was noted that permits were now person and vehicle specific, and that people needed to provide proof that they resided at the property. Ms Griffen advised that Mr Kenny could apply for a park, either on the metered spaces on Smith Street, or a marked residents' parking bay outside his property on York Place.

Cr Walls entered the meeting during discussion at 9.10 am

There was further discussion about the consultation process undertaken for the Parking Strategy. Mr Hill clarified what documentation was released and outlined the changes to the Residents Parking Policy. In response to questions Mr Hill advised that letters had not been sent to permit holders during consultation, but they had been advised of the changes once the Parking Strategy was adopted. It was noted that Mr Kenny had submitted on the Parking Strategy.

5 RESIDENTS' PARKING POLICY ISSUES

Mr Hill tabled for consideration an A3 colour coded map, and an A3 copy of a table of the complaints received. There was discussion about permits offered in the paid parking residential zone, and parking issues around Scotland Street, Pitt Street and Anzac Avenue. It was noted that Planning should consider the impact of inner city developments on parking when assessing resource consents. The negative impact of designated parking in the commercial retail area was discussed.

In response to questions Ms Griffen outlined the offer provided to Pitt Street residents, and provided advice as to how the permits operated, and how the Policy operated.

It was **agreed** that a letter should be sent to those Pitt Street residents with permits to ask them how the changes were working.

The Committee took a recess from 9.56 am until 10.04 am.

6 MR ROY KENNY – RESIDENTS' PARKING ISSUES

Mr Kenny tabled and spoke to a written statement outlining his issues. He then answered questions and there was discussion regarding the consultation undertaken on the Parking Strategy and the Residents' Parking Policy; his previous request for residents parking nine years ago; the current operation of the Policy in his area; and the Council's policy. Mr Kenny suggested alternative ways to operate the Policy and outlined what he wanted for his residence.

Mr Kenny was advised that he had a choice for either the use of one park in the metered parking spaces on Smith Street, or a dedicated residents' parking bay on York Place outside his property. Mr Kenny outlined his reasons why neither of these options were suitable.

Mr Kenny then answered questions to clarify what he had understood from the consultation on the Parking Strategy. He advised that he did not realise that residents' parking bays would be taken away. In response to a question, Ms Griffen advised that in the case of a disabled resident, a disability park would be required and this could be placed on Smith Street. In response to a question about why Mr Kenny's house should be considered an exception, Mr Kenny referred to his tabled statement outlining his concerns.

Mr Kenny was then thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 11.10 am

It was **agreed** that a letter of response under Cr Guest's signature be sent to Mr Kenny to reflect discussion, and to let him know what he was entitled to.

During discussion it was agreed that the precedent set for the CBD by granting any exception was unacceptable.

It was moved (Guest/Acklin):

"That there should be no change to the Residents Parking Policy."

Motion carried

The meeting concluded at 11.30 am