

ANNEXE 7

Spelthorne

Shepperton are totally opposed to the proposals from SCC, as they are struggling to maintain a 'village' atmosphere and feel that the appearance of parking machines on the street would be a reminder that the 'village' was becoming / has become an urban town.

Every local shopkeeper has signed a petition, supported by the residents, concerned about what has been the continuing commercial decline of the High St. over the last 20 years.

However, a recent regeneration programme, supported by Spelthorne Borough Council has resulted in extra trade on the High St and there is concern that the original proposals would slow this progress, where a lack of churn is not reported to be a problem.

There was some sympathy for this view, but the Task Group did not see that the total withdrawal of the proposals to be defensible, when set against the countywide programme, but does recommend that a 30-minute free of charge period be introduced with a medium tariff.

Ashford also has 'regeneration area' status in the Borough and the Chairman expressed concern as to the economic fragility of the area, which is the widely shared view of the Ashford Chamber of Commerce and residents alike.

However, most of the concern seemed to be that people would not stop to pop into a shop for a paper, a pint of milk, to visit the bank or building society for those small items that account for most of the trade in Ashford Town, if they had to add 30p to park onto the small amounts of their expenditure and would be tempted to continue driving to the Tesco supermarket. The TG agreed and hence is recommending that a medium tariff with a 30-minute period free of charge be introduced, in order to protect that trade.

Concern was expressed about the proposed charges in Shepperton and Ashford, which are seen as satellite shopping area to the main centre of Staines.

However, it is proposed to retain the high tariff (£1.40p/h) in Church St, Staines due to its close proximity to the town centre and the off street car parks in the area. The proposed charges in Knowle Green should be adjusted to have a longer-term tariff structure for local workers.

The TG felt that Sunbury was a difficult area to access and hence the proposed charges for The Parade should be withdrawn.

Again, any displacement issues should be tackled during the review period.