

ANNEXE 9

Tandridge

The underlying parking problem in Tandridge is how best to deal with increasing commuter parking, as there are few issues concerned with parking in the small retail areas with so much free off street parking provided.

The majority of requests the Local Committee receives for extending parking restrictions, arise from commuters parking in residential roads near stations and the problem is growing because of much improved rail services. Therefore there is a case for considering on street charging at a couple of appropriate locations well used by commuters.

There is less of a financial case for on street parking charges in shopping areas because churn is less of a problem, as Tandridge District Council has a policy of free parking for shoppers and visitors, although how sustainable this is in the longer term is less certain.

TDC has invested significantly in limited time, but free off street parking, which is free for 3 hours in all TDC owned car parks across the District and is free for 4 hours in Oxted town centre; however the length of stay in all these free shopping car parks is restricted.

There are few shops at Warlingham Green and 2 nearby supermarkets with free parking. There is also a free nearby car park at the edge of the Green and unrestricted on street parking nearby. As such it is considered that charging for on street parking would not currently be viable.

Whyteleafe has a similarly small retail offer, where it is similarly considered that charging for on street parking would not currently be viable.

However there is commuter parking near the station, where charging would be viable.

Extensive charging had initially been proposed at several locations in Caterham Valley but this is a retail area that has seen better days and has to compete with very large retail centres such as Croydon, Bluewater and Bromley. In addition, a large town centre supermarket has free car parking and the town centre has 'regeneration' status, having recently received support from SEEDA. It is however possible that a free 30-minute period followed by the medium tariff would help churn and enforcement outside the main line of shops in both Croydon Road and godstone Rd and it is recommended this is the only area included for further consultation.

Oxted has two supermarkets and District Council owned car park with up to 4 hours free parking. In general, it is considered unlikely that on street charges would be viable against the backdrop of so much free off street parking, but Oxted is an attractive town with a wide range of shops.

The Task Group appreciated that the limited introduction of a free 30-minute period with a medium tariff in bays around the town centre would help both enforcement and churn, but was concerned about both the impact on the shops given the extent of free parking nearby. The latter also heavily influences the financial viability of the business case, which is finely balanced due to the uncertainty around occupancy rates. Given this balance, it was therefore felt that the matter could be better judged by the Cabinet, as to whether to include this area in the formal public consultation exercise.

Other locations

There are a number of rail stations in Tandridge where on street parking is available on nearby roads, which are both free and not managed.

Two of these are Woldingham and Dormans Station where up to 100 vehicles park each day, churning up grass verges etc., so it is recommended that these areas be immediately investigated for parking management schemes that would include charging, to regulate parked vehicles more appropriately.

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