

Mole Valley

The Mole Valley Local Committee had met informally to discuss the proposals where half were against the policy as a matter of principle.

However, any objections on the principle were not a matter for the Task Group, as that decision has already been made.

The residents of Mole Valley seemed to accept that they should pay to park in cities such as Guildford and Woking, but not in the smaller towns.

There was a concern that the introduction of charging in Ashted could affect the viability of local shops and that people would drive to the neighbouring towns of Leatherhead and Epsom.

However, the majority view of the Task Group (the one dissenting member was from Mole Valley) considered this to be unlikely and that the proposal should be amended to a medium tariff of £1 per hour, with a 30-minute period free of charge, with the current 30-minute maximum stay lengthened to 1 or 2 hours at the smaller shopping centres in the District such as Ashted and Bookham.

It was recognised that following the introduction of on street charging, that there may be some displacement and that a CPZ should be considered.

The local member also felt strongly that a free parking period should be introduced in Dorking, however the proposed on street parking charges in Leatherhead and Dorking are recommended to remain with the existing high or medium tariff (with the exception of some longer term tariffs in near Dorking Station).

However, with the exception of one small supermarket car park in Dorking, there are no other free car parks in this town and the charge of £1 per hour on street, provides a margin over the off street car parks that generally charge 60p per hour. In Leatherhead there is a supermarket with a free limited time car park and another supermarket with free parking on the edge of town. It is considered that the range of shops, restaurants and facilities in Leatherhead, combined with the convenience of the on street spaces in the centre of town indicates a free period is not necessary.

There was also concern about the inadequacy of the current enforcement regime in both Dorking and Leatherhead, but given that the enforcing authority was Mole Valley District Council, the TG felt that this was a matter that the Local Committee should take up with them.

Concern was expressed that if on street charging was introduced in Bookham, then shoppers might go to Effingham, or Fetcham, where charging was not being proposed.

The TG accepted this as a possibility, but felt that the better solution would be to consider introducing charging in Effingham and Fetcham.

The proposals for Povey Cross Rd were strongly supported as this is used as a waiting area for airport taxis. However, the issue here was the current poor quality of enforcement by MVDC, given the distance from the more central areas, so the question was raised as to whether it would be more cost effective for Horley to undertake enforcement in this area.

The TG did not consider that Woodfield Lane in Ashted was a viable location for charges due to low number of spaces and that the proposal should be withdrawn.

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