



LOCAL COMMITTEE (RUNNYMEDE)

WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTION

27th JUNE 2011

1. Question from Mrs Jean Prevost, a resident of Runnymede and volunteer with Runnymede & Elmbridge Talking Newspaper

“How can our representatives on Surrey County Council justify charging for parking in our High Streets and shopping areas, when local businesses they claim to support are struggling to survive and customers will be driven out of town centres? By so doing, they will be signing the death warrant of local traders and kill off the community spirit in the towns and villages they claim to represent.”

The Chairman has given the following reply on behalf of members:

“The drivers for change in the proposed arrangements for on-street parking are threefold: firstly Surrey County Council has to make savings of £207million in its costs over the next four years; secondly at both County and Borough level, parking service costs presently run at a deficit; lastly income from on-street parking will allow for improved enforcement of parking restrictions, very necessary in some areas.

Members of the Local Committee met informally and reviewed the initial proposals put forward by the Parking team in February and then advised the team that in general they supported the proposals, subject to several provisos.

The issues contained in the Cabinet’s request to Local Area Committees are noted below:

The Cabinet of Surrey County Council has asked Local Area Committees to agree proposals at local level that:

- Ensure churn of vehicles, for the benefit of local shops
- Stop long term parkers from blocking shopping areas and provide alternatives in appropriate locations
- Provide a 30 minute free period only where it is appropriate
- Safeguard small shopping areas from being disadvantaged by nearby large supermarkets which offer free car parking

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- Protect the viability of local shopping areas by assessing the proportion of empty shops;
- Set consultation timeframes through the Parking team at Surrey County Council.

You will note from the above that the Local Area Committee is in a position to negotiate what is best for their area, and you can be assured that Runnymede county councillors will be proactive in seeking what is best for the borough.

The proposals for Runnymede will be discussed in public at the October 10th Local Committee meeting, and members of the public will be able to submit written comments as part of the public consultation.