

PORTFOLIO HOLDER – ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

DATE	03 April 2023
REPORT OF	Councillor Stewart Swinburn, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Carolina Borgstrom, Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Introduction of a two-hour waiting restriction – Waltham Road, Scartho car park
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	PHET 08/22/03

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

A borough wide Parking Strategy directly supports both the Council's priorities of a "stronger local economy" and "stronger communities" by ensuring that there is an effective and equitable approach to both on and off-street parking.

The Council has clear ambitions for the economic growth of North East Lincolnshire as set out in its Economic Strategy and Local Plan. Sustainable transport is integral to this, and the use of private vehicles is one option, which is part of the transport mix.

This report and the appendices present an approach to the engagement which has taken place with the public, local businesses, data gathered on site, and the results of an online engagement survey, alongside a drop in session and a public meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend that no time restriction be put in place on the car park at Waltham Road, car park, Scartho at this present time, due to the unsupportive feedback received in the formal engagement with local businesses, also at the public meeting held. Alternative measures will be looked at, such as the implementation of additional spaces and the feedback will be reviewed further to determine if any future recommendations can be considered.

Appendix 1 – Details of a data gathering exercise which took place on Waltham Road car park during two dates in September and October 2022.

Appendix 2 – Online survey results for Waltham Road, car park, Scartho.

Appendix 3 – Feedback from the public meeting held in February 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder

1. Does not progress with the proposed two hour waiting restriction in Waltham Road car park, Scartho.
2. The feedback is reviewed and considered, and a further report is submitted to a future meeting to deal with any further recommendations.

REASONS FOR DECISION

There was a request from Ward Members to propose a time restriction on Waltham Road car park. The perceived view was that the car park was being occupied by employees working at the nearby hospital and using the car park to avoid parking charges.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 Informal public consultation took place for three weeks in February and March 2020, which included the proposal for a two-hour waiting restriction on Waltham Road car park. The proposal would see a restriction placed on the car park between 9am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, allowing cars to park for a maximum of two hours.
- 1.2 Feedback from the informal consultation was in favour of the proposal to introduce a two hour parking restriction.

Waltham Road		Number of Responses
Yes	138	33.09%
No	59	14.15%
Not Sure/No Opinion	220	52.76%

- 1.3 The Cabinet report dated March 9, 2022, and the Portfolio Holder Environment and Transport dated March 21, 2022, recommended and sought permission for further consultation and development to take place on the two hour free parking restriction on Waltham Road.
- 1.4 Due to time passed since the last consultation and objections submitted by several local businesses, new engagement has taken place specifically with local businesses along with statistics obtained on two occasions by enumerators on site.
- 1.5 Stage 1 pre-engagement commenced 17th November 2022 and remained open until the Stage 2 formal engagement commenced on 4th January 2023, ending on 16th January 2023. Letters to surrounding businesses were sent out asking for feedback on the proposals and an online survey was created to capture the feedback from the formal engagement.
- 1.6 As a result of the initial informal consultation, the suggestion of permits for employees in local businesses was raised by one local business in Scartho, who had objected to the proposals for introducing a restriction. Therefore, in the recent engagement with the businesses, a permit for businesses to park all day

at a suggested cost of £100 a year was put forward. This cost would be to cover the administration of the permits and would support the enforcement of any restrictions imposed.

- 1.7 The overall outcome from the recent engagement with local businesses concerning Waltham Road car park, was against the implementation of the proposed two hour waiting restriction, and a waiting restriction in general.

Would a two hour maximum parking restriction in Waltham Road car park affect your business and customers?

Number of Responses		
Yes	20	83.33%
No	4	16.67%

Do you feel the car park is currently operating satisfactory without any parking restrictions?

Number of Responses		
Yes	16	88.89%
No	2	11.11%

- 1.8 A public meeting was held on the 27 February 2023. The meeting was attended by a small number of Scartho residents, but predominantly local businesses. It was concluded that all consulted with at the public meeting were not in favour of the proposed restriction. It was agreed to postpone the decision and review the feedback further, due to the potential detrimental effect this may have on local businesses and people's livelihood.
- 1.9 It was requested another public meeting was held following any future decision on the future of the car park.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2.1 There is a detrimental risk to local businesses in Scartho that imposing a time restriction or charging shoppers for a longer stay would deter customers from using local businesses in the village. There is a strong feeling from the local businesses in Scartho that the car park works well as it is and that the proposed changes and restrictions are not needed or justified.
- 2.2 There is a risk of displacement of vehicles onto nearby residential streets.
- 2.3 There is a risk to the local businesses and community centres that if enforcement were to take place that Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) this may result in negative publicity.
- 2.4 There is an opportunity to instate additional parking bays where the recycling bins were removed, this work has already been requested to be carried out.
- 2.5 There is an opportunity to investigate the flooding claims which are alleged to

occupy four spaces at the rear right hand side of the car park, when it has been raining heavily.

2.6 There is an opportunity for the implementation of further spaces alongside the car park boundary with the adjacent hotel, where emergency access is indicated. This option is to be investigated further.

2.7 There is an opportunity to listen to the feedback and review this further when considering any further recommendations.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No other options considered at this point.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Communication regarding any changes to current practice.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Any remedial work carried out in the car park will be through the Council's partnership arrangement with Equans.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

The proposals have no implications for children and young people.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposals are not expected to impact on climate change.

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

The proposals were presented as a requirement for further consultation at the Economy Scrutiny Panel on 4th January 2023.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations do not give rise to any direct financial implications.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations. Legal services will continue to work closely with the relevant teams and assist with any legal implications arising from any further recommendations made.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

The proposal affects the Scartho Ward.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet March 9, 2022, Forward Plan reference CB 02/220/08.
Portfolio Holder Environment and Transport, March 21, 2022, General

Exception.

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Carolina Borgstrom, Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
01472 326207

Mark Nearney, Assistant Director Housing and Infrastructure
01472 324122

Paul Thorpe, Operations Director, Equans
01472 324483

COUNCILLOR STEWART SWINBURN

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Appendix 1 – Details of the data gathering exercise.

Waltham Road car park, Scartho

Based on the enumeration exercise, between 9am and 4pm, we have found that the car park is full 12% of the time. This affects, on average, 14 car users each day who leave the car park unable to find a space.

The statistics below demonstrate the duration of vehicles parked in the car park on these days.

September date:

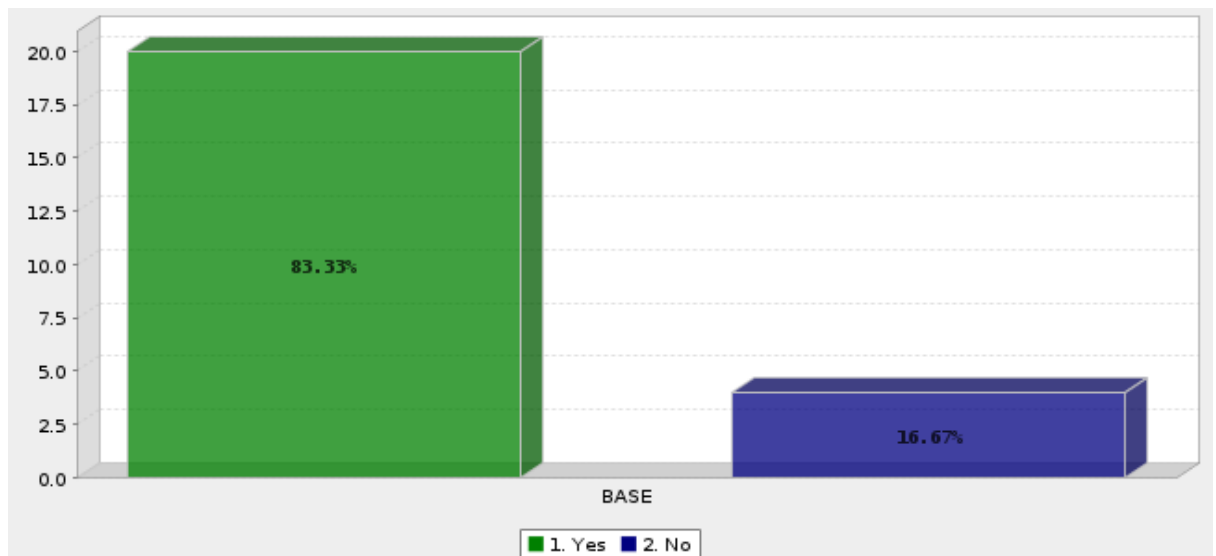
- 82% less than two hours
- 7% more than two hours and less than four hours
- 11% more than four hours

October date:

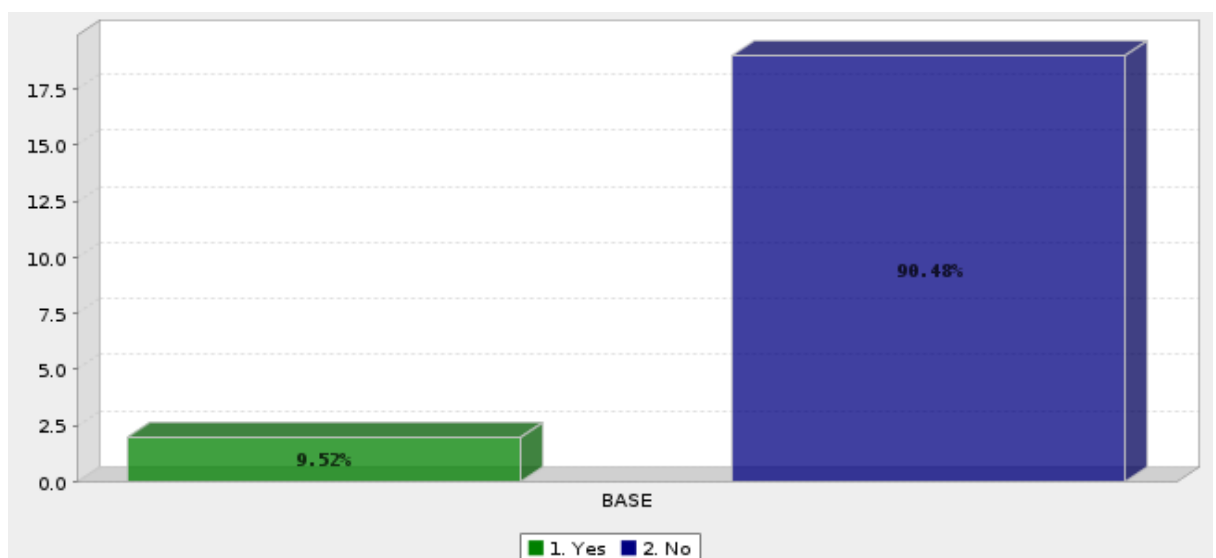
- 75% less than two hours
- 7% more than two hours and less than four hours
- 18% more than four hours

Appendix 2 - Waltham Road car park, Scartho survey results

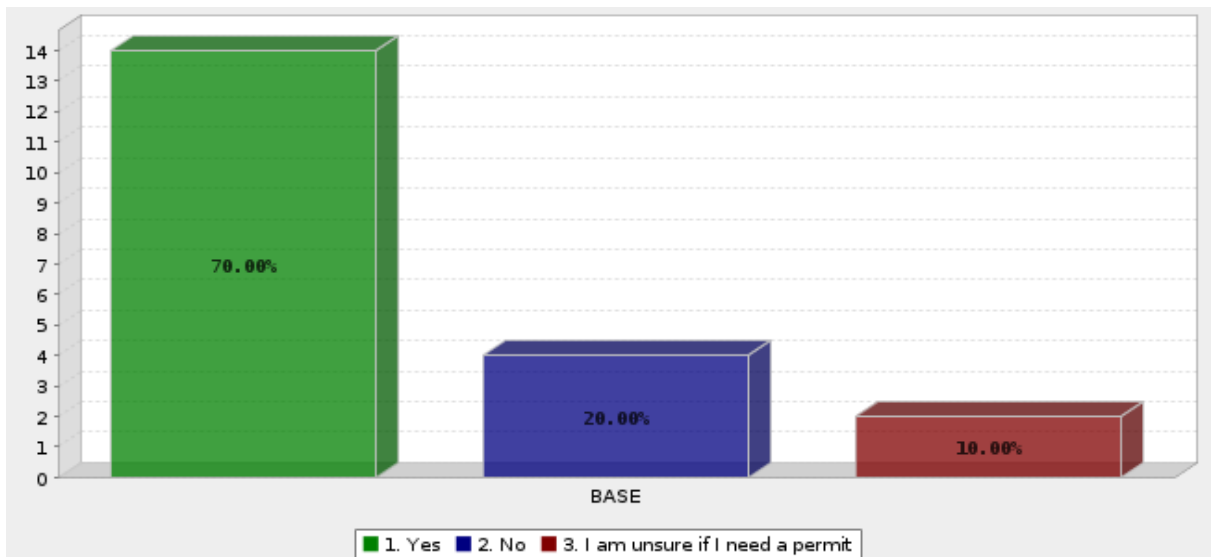
Q1. Would a two hour maximum parking restriction in Waltham Road car park affect your business and customers?



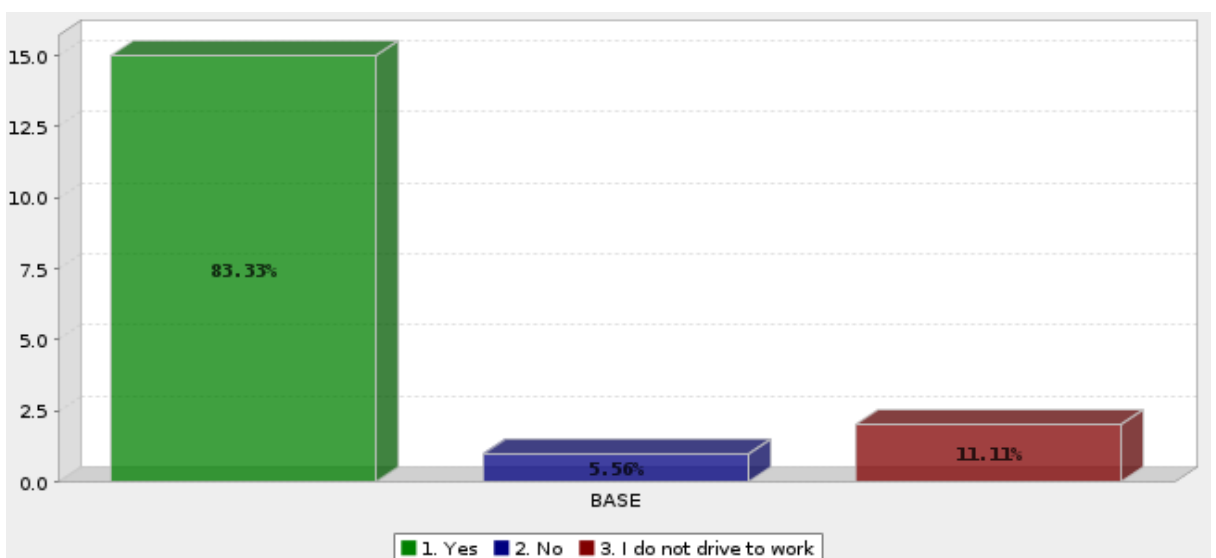
Q2. Do you think the option to charge for parking over a two hour period would be beneficial for your business?



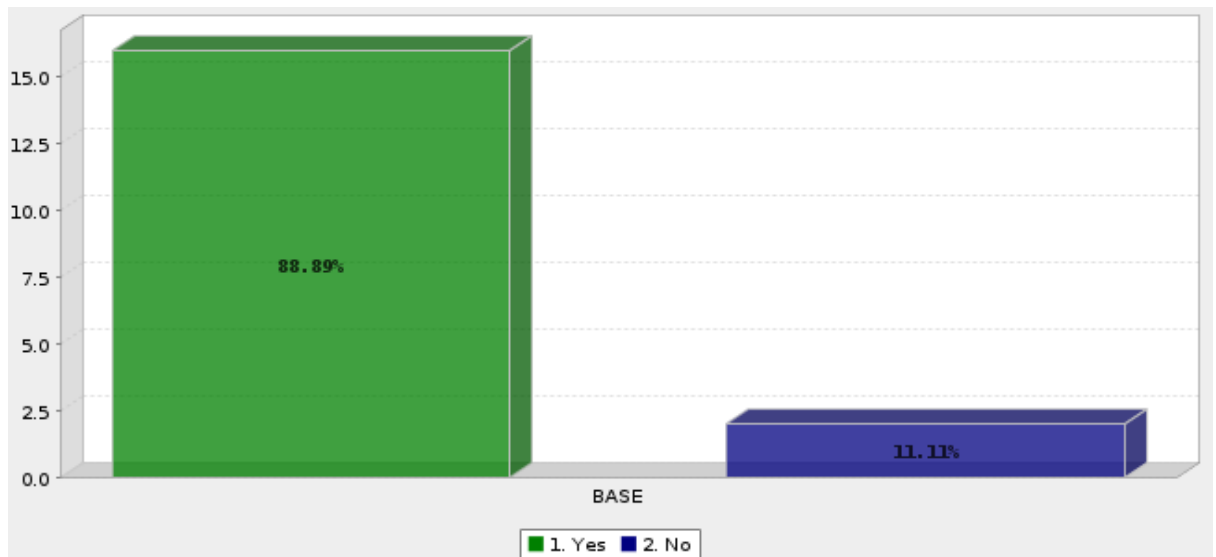
Q3. To accommodate employees of local businesses who may require parking all day, permits may be available at a cost of £100 for one year. This would meet the cost enforcement required and the maintenance of the car park. Would your business require permits?



Q4. If a parking time restriction was imposed and permits were not available, would you drive to your place of business and seek alternative parking?



Q5. The proposed restrictions intends to improve the efficiency and overall use of Waltham Road Car Park for staff and customers of local businesses and facilities. Do you feel the car park is currently operating satisfactory without any parking restrictions?



Q6. Please provide any feedback relating to the current operation of Waltham Road car park.

The carpark is well lit for users to feel safe at night when they finish work in the dark. Our workplace is mainly female staff who leave together to collect their cars from the carpark, if they parked in different street areas then they would have to leave in different directions and not feel safe in the dark. The only problem with Waltham Road carpark is that the recycle bins have been removed and parking spaces have not been put in the place of the bins. Also, the carpark floods regularly at the rear right hand side of the carpark.

The recent survey highlighted that only 14 people per day drove away unable to find a space. I feel this doesn't justify the huge expense and massive inconvenience for businesses and customers of Scartho village shops. £100 per permit is far too expensive for shop workers to pay for a permit and their employer cannot be expected to pay it in these difficult times. Many staff are part time on minimum wage. I understand admin is involved but something in the region of £30 (like the disabled badge) would be more reasonable. Has the disc parking scheme been considered? Like they use in Northumberland and the Isle of Man? Charge a nominal fee for the disc and park free for up to 2/3 hours in most council car parks. Keeps shoppers coming to the towns and parking spaces rotated fairly.

There is always spaces available, people come and go. Charging customers would deter customers from local businesses. A lot of our customers are elderly and struggle as things are.

A free car park is an asset which should not be taken away. If there is a lack of capacity this can be eased by reinstating the car parking spaces which were taken away when the recycling bins were placed in the car park approximately 4 spaces. When leaving work today at 12.30pm I noted that there were 4 spaces at the back of the car park that could not be used due to flooding. As a business owner a free car park is an absolute asset to staff and customers alike. At the current time female members of staff particularly during the dark nights can all leave together and can see each other safely to their cars making them feel less vulnerable.

There has never been a problem Getting parked for work, even when attending work later in the morning I can always find a space. Posing restrictions will have huge impacts to both my clients and I. One of the reasons clients and customers of other local businesses use the facilities locally is because of the free car park- it's a desirable. If I knew there was a restriction as a customer, I would seek out alternative shops to attend. If others have this mindset- which from asking clients within work they would, this would have implications to some of the local businesses. The car park has always been free and this has huge benefits for everyone. It would be interesting to understand where this new idea of restrictions have come from as there has not been a problem before. Also, there has never been a survey conducted by clients and customers who use the facilities. This would be hugely beneficial as it would provide this 'consultation' with all information. The only information of which has been gathered is from 2 people standing in the car park for 2 days asking why we've parked there.

I have lived and worked in the village all my life and have always used the car park for both shopping and working purposes. I have spoken to very many patients and people in the village about this matter and have not come across one person who feels that these proposed changes and restrictions are needed or justified. The car park works perfectly fine as it is and now that the large bins have been removed there is even the capacity for several more spaces to be added if the powers that be wanted to and even a couple more where there used to be access to the beeches car park. It is not often that every space is full anyway and on the odd occasion this might happen, if you wait for a minute or two, you will always find someone leaving. As shown by your own survey, the majority of users park for a very short time so it's logical that there is going to be space available every few minutes due to the high turnover of most users. It's self regulating. The main impact if these changes were implemented would be on the village workers who play a very important role in the life of the village and would then be left with no choice but to find a space down a residential side street somewhere which is very impractical and not safe for women leaving work in the dark when there is a safe illuminated car park in the centre of the village. Your survey also showed that the number of workers using the car park all day is actually a very small percentage anyway so should not even be an issue and certainly should not be charged £100 for a pass for parking in a free car park they have been using for decades when they are working in the village! Neither is it fair on residents having even more cars trying to park in front of their houses every day because they are not allowed to stay in the safe car park anymore. Look at what's happening to residential streets already due to extortionate and inadequate hospital parking! It's unnecessary and the only reason it's being proposed is so that someone can make money. It's very sad and a reflection on how this world is changing. Community does not seem to be important anymore. It's all about money.

It is my clients best place for parking, and I never have any complaints about the car park, my clients are very happy to park there and they do not stay longer than 4 hours as my business hours at 10-2, the feedback I've had from the locals is that's it would be a shame to see restrictions put in place and I agree

I feel very strongly that things should be left as they are. How much would it cost to implement a two hour limit on the car park and who is going to monitor it?

surely, they are all unnecessary. It would be good if they could put extra spaces where the recycling bins used to be. This is a village, and we want people to enjoy coming and not to be under pressure of looking at the clock all the time. I agree that when it is full people park on the street but if it is a limit to two hours there will be a lot more parking on the street.

Never had an issue finding a space in this car park at different times of the day, if you do decide to make it pay to park, I would expect the car park to be fully resurfaced bushes cut back lines repainted and maintained, also my suggestion would be make it 4hrs free to reduce loss of business.

The car park works extremely well as it is. The imposing of limited time parking and the cost of permits will make a negative effect on our business. Please do not impose this restriction on our patients and another tax on our business.

I don't want there to be a 2 hour maximum limit; I am happy with how the car park operates now for myself and my clients. 4 hours would be better, obviously I am not best pleased about the idea of having to pay for a permit as it's just another cost that I didn't expect to pay when I signed my lease 3+ years ago, like I stated previous the free parking was one of the reasons I decided to work here.

The car park works brilliantly at the moment & I have never had an issue with being able to find a space. Although the back of the car park requires levelling as after a downpour 4 spaces are lost due to deep puddles After years and years, I've never seen an issue with the car park. If there's a space great, if not try again but charging is a joke and will reduce foot fall for many businesses

Appendix 3 – Public Meeting Feedback on the proposals

Business Owners

- *Congestion will build up onto nearby residential streets*
- *Parking long term over a residential street is surely worse than in a car park*
- *Customers who appointments are over 2 hours will park onto the residential streets*
- *Could put off future customers for those businesses where the customer stays longer than 2 hours. i.e., beauty, dental*
- *One of the attractions to owning a business in this area was that parking was available and free for them and their customers to use*
- *Safety concerns -currently feel safe leaving work at night. Being able to walk with colleagues to a car park that is well lit. A restriction would mean staff need to split and walk into streets alone*

Reasoning for the proposal

- *Confusion over where the proposal came from as all in the room have never been unable to park nor had heard their customers comment on the parking*

Residents/ business users

- *Concerns about the covenant on the land, meaning you would be unable to charge/fine people on this land. It has since been confirmed by legal that the council own the land and there is no covenant preventing charges being applied*
- *Concerns this is a money-making scheme*
- *Customers often use more than one business, as they are not on a time restriction to visit the neighbouring shops. Each business helps one another. Restricting the period of time allowed in the car park would be damaging and ruin the community spirit/feel that is currently there*
- *Money would need to be spent by Equans to enforce the restriction.*
- *Reduce the village footfall*
- *Residents are struggling to pay for food and times are hard- this would only enhance that stress more. Resident who uses the community centre regularly*