

Rother District Council

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	2 November 2020
Title:	Wainwright Road Car Park
Report of:	Ben Hook, Head of Acquisitions, Transformation, and Regeneration
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Bayliss
Ward(s):	Bexhill Central
Purpose of Report:	To approve works improving the accessibility and appearance of Wainwright Road Car Park.
Decision Type:	Non-key
Officer Recommendation(s):	It be RESOLVED: That a budget of £50,000 be allocated from the Car Park reserve for improvement works to Wainwright Road Car Park.

Introduction

1. In September 2020, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) implemented a Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) regime throughout Rother District. At the same time, and partly in response, Cabinet approved a variation to the District of Rother (off-street) Parking Places Order 2020 (Minute CB20/45 refers).
2. This new order amended charging scales at existing car parks throughout the district, including Wainwright Road Car Park, with the aim of mitigating the impact of CPE, whilst managing demand. As a result, it is anticipated that additional income will be generated, some of which can be used to upgrade and improve existing facilities.

Car Park Improvements

3. Wainwright Road Car Park is located just off Beeching Road, to the rear of Bexhill Police Station. This car park has been significantly underutilised for a number of reasons. Highway signage to this car park is poor with only a single sign at the junction of Beeching Road and Terminus Road providing motorists with directions. The surface, fencing, and signage within the car park and access footpaths are all also in need of refurbishment. Pedestrian routes between the main shopping areas and the car park are unclear and unsigned meaning that users of the Town Centre tend to favour other car parks such as the De La Warr Pavilion and Sainsbury's which are more well known.
4. It is proposed that the fences are repaired and painted, and there is a renewal of car park signage. It is also proposed that lighting in the car park is upgraded to provide a safer and more welcoming environment for users. The

Council will commission this work through a local contractor. It is estimated that this work will cost £30,000.

5. To encourage users of the Town Centre to park and walk it is proposed that new signs are placed at the junctions of Wainwright Road/Beeching Road, Beeching Road/London Road and Sackville Road/Terminus Road. Pedestrian signage will also be installed directing pedestrians to use Victoria Road and Reginald Road as the most appropriate route to the Town Centre. This element of the work will be undertaken by ESCC Traffic and Safety but will be funded by Rother. This work is estimated to cost up to £20,000. Appendix A details the proposed works.
6. There is also an alleyway leading direct to Terminus Road that abuts the rear gardens of the homes on Reginald Road. Improvements are required but there are complications relating to land ownership. Therefore, the Council should seek to deliver these improvements at a future point once ownership and maintenance responsibility can be established.

Conclusion

7. Given the new charging regime it is important that the Council improves its parking facilities to create attractive and welcoming facilities, particularly in those areas most affected by the introduction of CPE.
8. As the second largest car park with sufficient proximity to Bexhill Town Centre, Wainwright Road Car Park has the capacity to accommodate displacement from the changes to on-street parking. Therefore, it is recommended that a budget of £50,000 to be funded through the Car Park Reserve be approved for the works outlined above.

Financial Implications

9. Increased usage of Wainwright Road car park will generate greater parking revenue receipts.

Environmental Implications

10. Encouraging use of this car park will reduce congestion within the Town Centre and improve pedestrian access to Bexhill's main shopping zones.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	No
Crime and Disorder	No	Consultation	No
Environmental	Yes	Access to Information	No
Sustainability	No	Exempt from publication	No
Risk Management	No		

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Appendices:	A – Improvements Map
Relevant Previous Minutes:	CB20/45
Background Papers:	None

