



**Agenda Item; Coppice Car Park Report
Submitted by; Car Park Working Group**

1. Approval;

Agree details as outlined in background report.
Approve recommendations 1 to 4.

2. Purpose of the Report

2.1 To give information as to developments regarding future use of Coppice Car Park. This is an update from the previous report considered by Full Council on 27th September 2022.

2.2 Changes to the Coppice Car Park legal status are required due to the environmental implications of having a large car park in the centre of town and the lack of shoppers parking there.

2.3 The matter came to the fore with the requirement from 2020 to pay business rates which in 22/23 were £22,954 p.a. The business rates are currently being paid by all Belper residents, many of whom do not use this Car Park.

3. Background Information

3.1 At a meeting of Full Council on 27.9.22, it was;

RESOLVED That a Car Parking Order be sought as follows;

a) To enable management of the Electric Vehicle Charging Points currently being installed.

b) To enable the removal of abandoned cars.

c) To enable residents local to the Coppice Car Park to have a residents parking permit for a numbered space for which an administration fee will be charged.

d) To enable local businesses to have a numbered space permit for which an administration fee will be charged.

e) To protect the current disabled parking spaces.

f) All other spaces will be offered with 2 hours free parking followed by charges matching those offered in AVBC car parks e.g. 90p for the first hour etc.

g) All of these regulations will be subject to the proviso that Belper Town Council can close the whole site for the regular Fairs or as they see fit.

h) That AVBC be approached to provide a formal proposal based on the above, to include legal fees and cost of enforcement of the site. Once this has been received, to be submitted to a future Council meeting.

3.2 The Working Group and Town Clerk met with the Executive Director (Operations) for Amber Valley Borough Council on 30/01/23 for an **initial informal discussion** on the process for seeking a Car Park Order.

3.3 A discussion was also held regarding the possibility of AVBC carrying out the day to day management of the Coppice Car Park on behalf of Belper



Town Council (BTC) as they already did for Somercotes and Codnor Parish Councils.

3.4 If this option were to be pursued formally, a management fee would be proposed, but BTC would require that the Coppice Car Park would remain in their full ownership as it has been since 1953. In addition, it would be required that all decisions on charges would remain with BTC.

3.5 If, following a formal approach, Amber Valley Borough Council agreed to this arrangement, it would prove advantageous to BTC, as it would be getting advice and implementation from a local, experienced car park management team, and also all enforcement would be provided by AVBC.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 If AVBC agreed to a formal proposal, it would be financially prudent to include Gibfield Lane and St Johns Car Parks in the legal orders even if charging for those sites was not planned at this time. The legal charge would also include the required formal public consultation.

4.2 To ensure that this proposal remained financially viable, parking charges would be proposed as follows as a basis for future costings;

Up to 2 hours 80p

Up to 3 hours £1

Over 3 hours £2.50.

4.3 The AVBC issued parking permit would be considered i.e. free after 4 pm until 8 am and on Sundays.

4.4 Numbered spaces or free parking would not be considered, as it has been established that it is not an economical or environmentally beneficial use of the spaces.

4.5 These charges would address the problem that currently daytime shoppers frequently find there are no spaces to in park.

4.6 It is estimated that this would raise enough income to cover the cost of the business rates for the Coppice car park, current basic maintenance and could build up a budget for improvements to the car park; by renewing the surface; redesignating and thereby increasing the number of spaces; improving the lighting and making it more energy efficient; installing CCTV thereby improving safety.

4.7 These charges would be lower than AVBC (First hour 90p, 2 hours £1.40); less than those of Derbyshire Dales (First hour £1.50; 2 hours £2.50), and considerably less than any in Derby City (2 hours £3.10, 3 hours £4.20).

5 The details the parking orders would cover are as follows;

5.1 To enforce the Electric Vehicle Charging Points and Derbyshire Community Transport 'Car Club' spaces and deter non users from blocking the spaces.

5.2 To act as a deterrent to the long term use of the car park by owners of multiple vehicles.

5.3 To enable residents living adjacent to the Coppice and the Market Place, who have no other parking to have one residents parking permit per home for which an administration fee will be charged.

5.4 To protect the current disabled parking spaces.



5.5 All of these conditions would be subject to the proviso that Belper Town Council can close the whole site for the regular Fairs or any other purpose as they see fit.

6 Legislation

Road traffic Act 1984.

7 Accessibility Implications

7.1 New Signage would be provided and accessibility be maintained.

7.2 The Coppice Car Park, sited as it is in the upper town is not favoured by people with restricted mobility to access the lower town. Residents and visitors have reported that when shopping or keeping appointments they prefer to use car parks in the lower town where they do not have to cross cobbled sets or steep slopes.

8 Climate Emergency Implications

8.1 There is no such thing as “free Parking”. It always has costs attached.

8.2 Until the recent implementation of business rates the direct costs of the Coppice Car Park have been minimal.

8.3 However, maintaining free car parking in the town is not environmentally sustainable. We should not be encouraging people to drive across the region for the sake of “Free Parking “. It encourages extra car use and discourages walking and cycling.

8.4 It contributes to air pollution and climate change. Currently the EVCP points on the Coppice car park cannot be enforced to ensure they are free for electric car charging.

8.5 Events of last summer with extreme temperatures and drought have shown that we cannot go on ignoring this issue.

9 Corporate Plan Implications

9.1 This proposal is in line with the Corporate Plan

9.2 It aims to provide value for money in delivering services.

9.3 It addresses GS2, GS2 and GS5 to create a cleaner environment; reduce reliance on fossil fuels and increase the use of sustainable modes of transport.

9.4 It supports the BTC declaration of a Climate Emergency.

9.5 By encouraging a greater turnover of short term use it may well increase the number of visitors to the upper town.

10 Financial Implications

SET UP COSTS

10.1 This will be reported to Council once further discussions have been held and a formal proposal made to Amber Valley Borough Council.

ESTIMATED INCOME

10.2 No car parks in AVBC have our proposed charging profile however it is estimated that it would cover the current business rates and maintenance costs.



10.3 There may also be, in the long term, support for other local public transport in the town e.g., local buses.

10.4 This will be reported to Council in full once further discussions have been held.

11 Recommendation(s)

That;

- 1. The Car Park Working Group continue further discussions with AVBC on the proposal that they manage the Coppice Car Park on behalf of BTC. Any formal proposal to be agreed initially by BTC.**
- 2. Recommend that the working group including the Town Clerk continue to be the liaison group with AVBC.**
- 3. That discussions be on the basis of the parking charges outlined above and regular updates or changes to the broad terms be reported back to Full Council.**
- 4. That Gibfield Lane and St John's Car Parks be included in the legal order if agreement can be made with AVBC.**

12 Reasons for recommendation(s)

12.1 The paper above outlines the thought and consultation given to the problem currently created by the lack of legal controls on the Coppice Car Park, and offers deliverable solutions.

12.2 It will address the environmental deficit and the financial drain to Belper Town Council that the Coppice car park currently creates and free up the use of the car park to enable more shoppers and short term users to access the town centre.