

Meeting of Metered Parking Action Group Tuesday 5 July 2005

Present

Andrew Baddon
Richard Burton
Doreen Edgar
John Hinton
Frances McInnes
Sheena Penson

Also present were Dave Holladay from the Park action group and Chilly from Wilton Street

Apologies received from Jack Stuart

Frances opened the meeting and said that there were still a number of new members being added to the mailing list and indicating their willingness to be involved in the campaign.

The unofficial minutes that had been drawn up following the Roads & Lighting Committee on 29 June had gone out to all members.

It was recognised that we needed to have an alternative scheme to put forward in 6 months time when the current scheme is due to be reviewed. A resident in Wilton St had drawn up a paper on Parking Permit Zones that had been distributed to the committee prior to the meeting. This would provide a starting point for discussion.

The difference in areas was highlighted and the unsuitability of the "one size fits all" approach by the Council. Dave Holladay provided an insight in to what was happening in the Park Circus area. The Fire Brigade require a clear 3 metres access and this has not been adhered to by the Council. They have been squeezing in extra bays in order to shoehorn as many cars as possible in to the existing space. This contrasts with what has been happening in some other areas e.g. Arlington Street in Woodlands, where the number of parking bays has been reduced. From what has been happening on the ground, the scheme appears to have been worked out on paper by individuals with little or no knowledge of the areas.

PETITIONS

Several hundred individuals have now signed the petition for the Scottish Parliament. Completed forms have to be handed in to Balance in Napiershall St. We hope to provide an online petition for those who have requested it, but will advise that our preference is for people to sign a paper copy. Graham will be asked to update the website a.s.a.p.

PUBLICITY

The poster campaign is still being pushed with copies available at Balance, plus the helpful leaflets that Bernard McDermott has produced. Sheena has also produced a poster regarding the visitor permits and copies of that will be run off free of charge at the SNP premises. Andy will liase with Bill Kidd about the printing.

We are continuing to receive good coverage from the local press - in particular the Evening Times, West End Mail and the Glaswegian.

LEGAL ISSUES

Dave suggested that the Council are in breach of the Road Traffic Act in making a profit from cars being parked on the public road. They are effectively turning streets in to paid car parks without any of the controls required for building a car park. He has been in contact with the Environmental Law Foundation

John is expecting to hear from Ian Gardiner over the next few days regarding the situation with one way streets being introduced in some of the schemes.

It seems that approximately 50% of residents in Napierhall area are in Care homes - this may have had some bearing on the Council's decision to withdraw this area. May Morgan is active in this area.

A resident in Woodlands has contacted her lawyer for advice and has been advised to look at the European Constitution of Human Rights Act and to access population statistics and number of objections etc. Also to confirm if there is any action pending from the Care homes.

Possibility of judicial review - there must be legal omissions and there is a deadline of 8 weeks from 29 June. People on mailing list to be asked as to whether there were notices at both ends of their street throughout the entire consultation process.

John is dealing with the Disability Discrimination Act - he is also waiting for details about the tendering process and the contracts for the parking meters etc via the Freedom of Information Act.

St Vincent Crescent and the Park area are A listed buildings. The land associated with titles of listed buildings is also listed. Suggested that residents contact Historic Scotland for advice.

Ombudsman - Richard will work with Scott Monaghan on our submission to the Ombudsman. It is known that other individuals are contacting the Ombudsman but they will be asked not to mention the metered parking group. Only to be one "official" submission from group.

CHURCH ISSUES

Maureen McRobb from Kelvin Stevenson Memorial Church in Belmont Street has contacted Frances to advise of difficulties being experienced by church members on Sunday mornings due to displaced parking from the metered zone. Church members now have no chance of getting parked outside the church and many of them are elderly or disabled. Maureen is to be asked to provide names and letters from church members describing how they are being affected.

St Silas church in Park Road is also likely to experience difficulty once the Woodlands scheme is in operation.

FURTHER ACTION

Banner Demonstrations - Discussion as to the possibility of organising a series of demos at various locations over the summer. Prepare banners with a positive message. Frances will coordinate this. Bernard McDermott has contacted local councillors asking them to state their position on the parking controls. Frances to check with him about the responses he has received.

March - Discussion as to the possibility of organising a march on the City Chambers in 6 months time when the Traffic Orders are being reviewed. We will need someone to organise the march and to go through the proper channels for obtaining permission.

Andy will liaise with the R.A.C. and the A.A.

Chilly will review his plan for Parking Permit Zones and number the points. He will then send the amended copy to all members of the Action Group for their comments.