

## Summary

Following approval by Cabinet on 31 May 2018 to develop a business cases to apply for CPE powers a four week consultation was carried out between 17 September and 14 October.

The purpose of the consultation was to improve the public's understanding of what CPE is, how it will operate, and to understand the public's key priorities and issues with regards to illegal parking.

Consultation was carried out via an online survey in which respondents were asked a series of questions relating to the following areas:

- Off street car parks
- Disabled parking
- School parking
- Pavement parking
- Permit parking schemes
- Business waivers
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points

In total 1,002 completed surveys were received of which 957 (96%) were from respondents who identified themselves as borough residents. 23 responses were received from respondents who work in Telford and Wrekin (2%), 11 from visitors to the borough (1%) and 11 from local businesses (1%).

### Off street car parks

Respondents were asked about the different issues they had experienced in the Council's free and pay to use car parks in nine areas of the borough.

- In six of the nine areas the main issue experienced by respondents was not enough parking spaces (Newport, Oakengates, Wellington, Ironbridge, Dark Lane and Hall Court).
- Abuse of disabled parking was the main issue indicated for both Dawley and Hadley whilst the main issue experienced by users of Southwater multi storey car park was people parking outside of marked bays.
- In all car parks fewest respondents reported that they had experienced issues with unclear signage leading to and inside the car park.

Respondents were then asked to consider the impact that a new parking scheme with a three hour limit had made to short stay car parking in Wellington and whether this scheme should be extended throughout the borough.

- When asked whether they would like to see this introduced at other short stay car parks in the borough two thirds of respondents indicated that they would (66%).
- Newport (67%) and Oakengates (60%) were the areas indicated by the majority of respondents that would benefit most from a similar scheme.

### Disabled parking

- 22% of respondents indicated that they were blue badge holders or regularly transported someone who was.
- 74% of these said that there are not enough disabled parking places for their needs.
- 85% of these respondents reported that they experience problems finding spaces in local centres and 69% in off street car parks.
- Nine respondents had a disabled parking space marking outside of their property. Eight of these reported that they had problems with other people using the bay (both other blue badge holders and non-blue badge holders), two indicated that they were prepared to pay an increased fee for parking in these bays to be enforced.

### School parking

- 78% of respondents indicated that they had experienced bad parking outside of schools in the borough.
- Pavement parking and parking in restricted areas were highlighted as the main parking problems outside of schools.
- All but six schools in the borough were mentioned as having parking problems.
- Particular issues were highlighted in areas where schools are situated in close proximity to each other, e.g. Wrekin View and St Patrick's in Wellington and Moorfield Primary and Newport Girls' High School in Newport.

### Pavement parking

- 82% of respondents indicated that in their experience pavement parking is an issue in the borough.
- 16% indicated that they regularly have to park on the pavement. The main reasons cited for this were the width of the road preventing parking fully on the road without causing an obstruction and a lack of available parking spaces.
- 86% said that pavement parking was an issue in residential areas and 64% found it to be an issue outside schools.
- When asked how they would like to see pavement parking restricted, there was little difference between the proportion in favour of lines preventing parking on the pavement and the road (49%) and signs allowing parking on the road but not on the pavement (51%).

### Permit parking schemes

- 33% of respondents thought that permit parking schemes would improve parking in their area, compared with 46% who thought it would not and 22% who indicated that they did not know.
- Of those respondents who indicated that they thought a permit scheme would improve parking, more than half (55%) answered that they would be willing to pay for a parking permit to help cover the cost of running the scheme in their area.

### Business waivers

- Of the 11 businesses responding to the survey, 8 indicated that they experienced issues undertaking their business due to parking restrictions in the borough.
- Four of the business indicated that they would use a waiver scheme. Of those four, one indicated that they would be prepared to pay for it.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Points

- 2% of survey respondents indicated that they currently own an electric vehicle.
- 79% of electric vehicle owners indicated that they did not know where charging points are located within the borough.
- 14% of those respondents who did not currently own an electric vehicle indicated that they were considering buying one. 15% indicated that they didn't know whilst the majority (71%) responded no.
- When asked if they would consider buying an electric vehicle if there were more charging points available within their street, the number of respondents who said they would consider doing so more than doubled (29%).
- Southwater (81%), Wellington (66%), Ironbridge (60%), Newport (56%), Hall Court (55%) and Oakengates (51%) were identified as the most important locations for electric vehicle charging points.

### Other responses

In addition to the online survey responses were also received by email from three parish councils highlighting particular parking issues in their areas. A letter in support of the application was also received from the Police and Crime Commissioner.