

# Stockbridge Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC PARKING WORKING GROUP  
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH JANUARY 2022  
AT 6.00PM AT KINGS HEAD HOUSE,  
STOCKBRIDGE HIGH STREET, STOCKBRIDGE



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**Present:** Cllrs Guy Boney (Chair), Derek Halle, Iain Bell  
**Member of Public** Mr Roger Tym, D Buck  
**Apologies:** None  
**Clerk:** Belinda Baker

- TP/21/022** The Minutes of the meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> January were agreed as a true record of the meeting.
- TP/21/023** Cllr Boney thanked Mr Buck for joining the group and commented that he felt that SBA were a positive part of the community.
- TP/21/024** Cllr Boney expressed concern regarding a recent email from Cllr Oppenheimer, Executive lead member for Economy and Transport at HCC, that said that he (Cllr Oppenheimer) believed that traders in Stockbridge were positive about paid parking. The email had been circulated to the group. Cllr Boney said that it was important to keep the momentum going and to work out how the survey, agreed in January's meeting (TP/21/021 1), should be held.
- TP/21/025** Cllr Bell queried with Mr Buck if traders in Stockbridge were in favour of paid for parking. Mr Buck conceded that while some traders held that view, they were very much in the minority. He said that most were in agreement that free parking was the cornerstone of a thriving high street in Stockbridge.
- TP/21/026** Cllr Halle said that the survey cameras that had been installed by HCC had been done so on the back of a request from Cllr Gibson which the PC did not support. He said that HCC had admitted that paid for parking may be a possible outcome of HCC's survey. He said SPC had written to HCC to ask them to stop holding the survey and had informed them that it was not supported by SPC.
- TP/21/027** Mr Tym was of the view that if paid for parking was imposed in Stockbridge there would be rapid economic decline. Mr Buck commented that business rates for Stockbridge were high, comparable to their rent, and that any charge for parking would make recruiting staff difficult.
- TP/21/028** Cllr Bell expressed concern that were large numbers of people (both traders and residents) who were positive about lesser parking restrictions that would allow a car to stay a number of hours but not all day. He said it was clear that it was HCC's policy to ensure parking restrictions should work on a cost

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recovery basis and if this proved unsuccessful then HCC would seek to impose full parking restrictions within 2 years.

- TP/21/029** Mr Tym opined that Stockbridge, unlike Andover, was a destination town. He said that Stockbridge attracted visitors from outside the area that tended to come for a day out. He said that lesser restrictions would make things difficult for this type of visitor and it was therefore important to hold a survey to demonstrate this. He said it was true that places like Leisure Centres have lesser parking restrictions (1<sup>st</sup> 3 hours are free) but these places wanted people to go after a certain time, whilst Stockbridge wanted people to stay.
- TP/21/030** The Working Party agreed that the economic argument was a powerful argument to use against those wanting paid parking.
- TP/21/031** Cllr Boney drew the WP's attention to how the survey was going to be held. The Clerk noted that the previous minutes (TP/21/021 4) had suggested using electronic devices and she advised it was possible to use survey monkey as the front end on a tablet. An interviewer would be able to go through the questions with the interviewee and the data could be collated and downloaded from the web. The data would be GDPR compliant. She said that they would need to buy a survey monkey licence in order to do this. She said it would cost £99 for a month but the TPWP had £1000 budget for the year 21/22 that could be used for this purpose.
- TP/21/032** Mr Tym queried if electronic data collection would put off older people but the WP felt that the advantages for data collection outweighed the disadvantages.
- TP/21/033** Mr Tym said he would like to revise the questions to ensure they could be gone through and the answers recorded, quickly.
- TP/21/034** Mr Tym suggested approaching HCC, notifying them that the WP was intending to carry out this survey and asking HCC if they had any comments and if there was anything that HCC would like to be asked in the survey. He said the advantages to this were twofold; firstly, that HCC would be able to ask questions and secondly, that it could be recorded that HCC approved of the methodology and purpose. He suggested that there was a possibility that doing this might head off HCC.
- TP/21/035** Cllr Boney approved of this course of action and asked Mr Tym to draft a letter to HCC. Cllr Bell suggested that Mr Tym should ask to meet HCC.
- TP/21/036** Cllr Halle said that it was very important that HCC had confidence in the integrity of the data so that there should be no opportunity of HCC denigrating it. For this reason, he accepted that the survey could only be accessed by the interviewers on the day. Mr Tym commented that the survey was deliberately

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not asking for personal data and that there would be no means of identifying the interviewees.

**TP/21/037** The WP discussed who should do the interviewing. It was felt that some members of SBA could be asked to come forward as they would be able to benefit from the information.

**TP/21/038** Mr Buck said that if the survey was to be held over a 4 day period then Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday would be appropriate days because visitors from outside of Hampshire would often come for a 3 day weekend Friday to Sunday. Mr Tym said the aim was to record 750 interviews over the 4 day period.

**TP/21/039** Cllr Halle said that if HCC was to be contacted first then it was likely that the survey could not be held until late April early May but the WP did not consider this was a problem.

**TP/21/040** Mr Tym said the interviewer should work a 2 hr shift and should be able to do 20 interviews in that time.

**TP/21/041** Cllr Boney suggested that it would be appropriate to inform the press that the survey was taking place. The Clerk said that it could be posted on the website and in the next newsletter so as to inform the residents.

**TP/21/042** Mr Tym volunteered to attend a SBA meeting to talk to those traders who were pro paid for parking.

**TP/21/043** **Actions agreed by the Working Party**

1. The survey was to inform the economic argument regarding the relationship between Stockbridge's economy and parking.
2. Electronic tablets were suitable as a means of recording the survey.
3. Survey Monkey would be used as the means of displaying the survey and for data collection.
4. The use of Survey Monkey would require a licence to be purchased for a month at the cost of £99.
5. Mr Tym would refine the questions to ensure they could be asked as quickly possible; the use drop down boxes was to be considered.
6. HCC will be contacted prior to the survey taking place to inform them that the survey was taking place and to ask if there were any questions they would like to be asked.
7. A meeting with HCC was the preferred means of discussing the matter with them.
8. The survey would be held over 4 days
9. Members of SBA should be canvassed to see if they would be happy to do the interviewing.

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10. The interviewers would work a 2 hour shift.
11. The survey would take place late April early June.
12. Notification of the intention to hold the survey would be in the newsletter and the website.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm. Cllr Boney thanked the attendees.

DRAFT