

Task & Finish Group on Off Street Parking
16 DECEMBER 2019

Present: Councillors: Brian Donnelly, Frances Haigh, Lynn Lambert,
Richard Landeryou and Tim Lloyd

Also Present: Councillor Ruth Fletcher
Chris Stark, West Sussex County Council Highways

14 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

15 **NOTES OF THE MEETING ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2019**

The notes of the meeting from 18th November were received by the group.

16 **TO HEAR FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL'S PLANNING AND PARKING**

A representative of West Sussex County Council Highways had been invited to the meeting. He was an Area Highways Manager. He explained that his role was to liaise with the community. He agreed that any questions which he could not answer, he would ask colleagues and send an answer by email. He further suggested another colleague might be better able to answer questions.

Councillor Lloyd asked about the methodology for determining the number of parking spaces for a development. The Area Highways Manager explained that whilst the County Council could comment on the number, the Government's planning legislation limited the number of parking spaces which could be created off the street. County Highways could not object unless the number was a significant deviation from the norm. Councillor Donnelly felt there were so many variables regarding parking that a "one size fits all" matrix was not effective.

Councillors felt there was no consultation with Horsham District Council regarding the number of parking spaces needed. The County Council representative felt that there sometimes was. Councillor Lloyd suggested that the consultation should include asking the local ward members for their input. The County Council representative said that there were so many applications, it was not practical to consult on all of them. Councillor Donnelly stated that he wanted a planning matrix which could be tweaked by ward members.

It was noted that Mid Sussex District Council had developed their own parking matrix as had Arun District Council. Councillor Donnelly wanted to know about their evidence base and whether visitors' parking was factored in. He also wanted to know why Mid Sussex had developed their own parking matrix but

then continued using the one developed by the County Council. The Scrutiny Officer was asked to find out.

The group discussed flats being built with no parking.

Councillor Haigh asked about decisions on allowing dropped kerbs and using front gardens for parking. The County Council representative explained that there had to be a minimum of 4.8m space between the highway and the door of the property for the application to be considered. If there were parking bays nearby then the application would not be granted. There had to be room to take the car off the highway without it causing an obstruction.

Councillor Donnelly questioned why have a planning matrix at all. The County Council representative said it was better to have cars off the highways as then they caused less congestion. Councillor Donnelly felt it was difficult to encourage people to use the car less when there were no public transport options available.

Councillors felt there needed to be restrictions on converting car ports into other things as garages often just got used for storage. It was further noted that the size of garages was an issue. Councillors also felt that parking courts would be more useful than garages and they wished to report this in their final report. Councillor Fletcher suggested there should be reduced costs for the householder if they didn't use the space.

Councillor Fletcher felt that car dependence shouldn't be promoted. The West Sussex representative said that they comment on whether parking provision was enough to prevent developments having an impact on the highways. Councillor Donnelly commented that the cost of electric cars was very, very high and wondered whether County had considered making electric charging points compulsory. The County representative said that County had an electric charging policy document. It was noted that electric cars currently have different charging fittings.

It was noted that prosecuting people parking on kerbs was not enforceable.

17 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday 20th January 2020 subject to the suggested representative from West Sussex County Council being available.

The meeting closed at 5.14pm having commenced at 4.03pm.

CHAIRMAN