

## **Proposal for November meeting of Steyning Parish Council re Use of Area at Junction of A283 and Horsham Road for Advertising Purposes**

1. The following protocol was put forward by the Steyning & District Community Partnership Visitor and Tourism Group and was agreed by Steyning Parish Council in March 2017:
  - Signs should be of an appropriate quality and not “home made”.
  - Signs should only be put up for specific events e.g. Farmers markets, Food & Drink Festival, Summer Fair, late night shopping at Xmas, charitable days etc.
  - The area should not be used for advertising of individual businesses or institutions.
  - Signs should only be left on site for a maximum of two weeks (or the duration of the event) and removed at the end of that period.
  - Signs should be for events in the parishes of Steyning, Wiston, Ashurst, Bramber and Upper Beeding only.
  - The area should not be used for campaigning purposes, election material, protests etc.
  - There should be a notice placed on the fence which outlines the above as a “voluntary guidelines”.
  
2. It is now proposed that the following system should be put into place, which echoes the system run by Henfield Parish Council successfully for some years.
  - Making sure we refer to the system already in place with Henfield, we ask for the formal permission of WSCC to implement these voluntary guidelines as it is understood the fence belongs to WSCC, as well as the verge.
  - Visitor and Tourism Group to put up sign on the fence informing advertisers of the new guidelines and that from 1.1.18 anyone wishing to put up a sign should seek permission from the Deputy Clerk at the Steyning Centre. Unauthorised posters to be taken down and stored in Steyning Centre for up to 3 months. SPC to put article in Your Steyning and Facebook ‘Spotted Steyning’ site and both organisations to put on their websites.
  - From 1.1.18 Deputy Clerk to keep diary of requests to include name, email and phone number of advertiser and date of event. Any requests that breach guidelines to be refused.
  - If corner is looking untidy or if unsuitable posters displayed, diary can be checked and advertiser contacted if necessary. If unauthorised posters displayed Michael Willett has offered to remove to Steyning Centre. Light touch system proposed to ensure minimal extra work for Deputy Clerk.

## Proposed SPC Response to HDC car park upgrade proposals

Dear Ben

Thank you so much for meeting with us on 17<sup>th</sup> October and sharing your proposals for upgrading the three car parks in Steyning. We appreciate that our views were sought not only on the order in which works should be carried out but also on the detail of the plans. Our response is as follows:

### 1. Overall order of work

We would like the Fletchers' Croft car park to be improved first, starting in April 2018, as it is the only plan which will provide more car parking spaces overall, may give the opportunity for commercial coach parking and will remove the current rather confusing time restrictions due to school coach turning. We are keen to encourage more parking here by improving signage to the town, as it is currently our least utilised car park by visitors to the town although very popular with users of the Steyning Centre and Church.

We would then like the High Street car park to be improved in April 2019, as this is the most visible to visitors to the town and will also enable use of a second disabled public toilet and improve the rear ramp.

Finally we would like the Newmans Garden car park improved in 2020. The Visitor and Tourism Group of the Steyning & District Community Partnership are currently working with an architect on a scheme to upgrade the entrance to the twitten to the High Street so this will need to be taken into account. The Group would also wish to be closely consulted on the upgrade of tourism signs in all 3 car parks and very much welcomes this.

Steyning Parish Council feels that due to income projections that have been shared with us, HDC should be able to fulfil the promise made when the car park charges were implemented that any profits would be fed back into the maintenance and improvement of the car parks, and we calculate there should be sufficient profits for one car park a year to be improved between 2018 and 2020. We would also hope to see the day-to-day maintenance of the non-upgraded car parks to be improved in the interim.

### 2. Detailed comments on plan for each car park

#### A. Fletchers Croft

- We would like to investigate whether a scheme can be implemented so the 7 proposed car parking spaces at the rear of the car park, adjacent to the play area, can be used as a coach park. We would like to see if a dual-use scheme is possible so that coaches have to book in advance but the spaces available as ordinary parking at other times.
- You said that wiring could be installed for an electric car charging point. We would like a charging point installed, possibly to the right of the new pay machine proposed near the play area. Steyning has an active Greening movement and we feel this is an important facility to offer to visitors to the town.
- We like the proposed style of the Ely lamps but wonder if four will be sufficient to safely light the whole area, where there is a history of anti-social behaviour. If possible we would like the four proposed lights to be moved slightly towards the outside of the

parking area and to have some adjacent planters (perhaps in flint to reflect the nearby walls) with compact evergreen shrubs. At present the car park will be a very large stretch of tarmac and some planters on the outside 'corners' of the central oval, where there are some spaces not large enough for parking, would break this up.

- We welcome the proposal to cut back the shrubs at the entrance to the car park as this means the path from the play area is unused at present as visibility crossing the approach road is so poor. We also feel the path removed in 2016 linking the playground directly with the propose coach area should be reinstated as the track in the grass shows it is still a frequently used route.
- We feel that the plan should take into account the adjacent stream and Millennium pedestrian bridge. The maintenance of the stream falls to HDC but it is currently not done regularly so the banks are covered with nettles etc. As part of the upgrade we would like the stream to become a feature by being regularly cleared, and instead of the proposed wildflower meadow which can look untidy and is hard to keep clear of fouling, we would prefer the planting of spring bulbs in the grass.
- The current 4 disabled spaces are not fully utilised so we would like the proposed fifth space to be a parent and child space, as a playgroup operates in the Steyning Centre.
- Continuing the heritage theme, we would prefer heritage waste bins to the suggested furnitube bins.
- We feel it is important that the existing parking spaces along the entry road are incorporated as a permanent integral part of the car park, and are properly marked out and re-surfaced with grasscrete.
- We welcome the proposal for sheep sculptures but the possibility of vandalism would have to be taken into account when choosing the design.

#### B. High Street car park

- We welcome the provision of a wider footpath behind the public toilets so the rear toilet could be accessed safely at all times
- We welcome the re-design of the rear ramp into Charlton Street which we think will make it easier to use and less of a rubbish trap.
- We feel the disabled space proposed just inside the entrance would pose a risk to anyone unloading a wheelchair from the rear of the vehicle, and would prefer it to be moved to the far end of that line adjacent to the motorcycle area which is not greatly used.
- We wonder if a second pay machine at the rear of the car park would be beneficial to minimise pedestrian movements among the moving cars.
- Whilst we welcome the suggested provision of a ramp with handrails into the bus shelter, the location is central in our Conservation Area and any ramp needs to be sympathetically designed. We also wonder if it would be better placed at the end of the bus shelter near the salt bin facing sideways, so it is less likely to be used by children skateboarding and is also less likely to cause a bottleneck for bus passengers.

- The proposed espalier trees are welcomed but would need to be maintained and chosen to ensure they do not cause any damage to the flint wall.

#### C. Newmans Gardens Car Park (aka Tanyard Lane)

- We would like to keep the current 131 ordinary spaces and 4 for the disabled as the current disabled spaces are not usually fully utilised
- We feel the very large area of soft landscaping proposed around the existing tree towards the far end of the car park does not appear to be the best use of precious space and would prefer more parking spaces to be provided with suitable trees between, which would still be green but take up less ground. Trees would require less maintenance as well.
- The entrance to the twitten where there is to be a pay machine and signage/mapping needs designing with the Village and Tourism Group in light of their plans for a canopy in this location
- We are concerned that the proposed location for the sculptures on the high bank opposite the Health Centre may pose a risk for children, who may be drawn to climb on them and then fall down the bank
- Is it proposed to remove the recycling bins from this car park? We could not see them on the plan.
- The well-used footpath at the car park edge, leading from the Health Centre to Elm Grove Lane, will need re-surfacing as part of this scheme, if it is not done sooner. It is currently in a dangerous state with protruding wooden pegs.

If you have any queries about our comments we would be pleased to provide any further clarification needed, and we would like to stay closely involved as the plans develop.