

Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

From: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council
Sent: 06 May 2021 20:37
To: 'Taylor-Avery, Simon'
Cc: Burton, Ralph
Subject: RE: HGV Park in Station Street, Swaffham

Dear Simon,

Thanks for your e-mail of 27th April, our Transport Access and Environment Committee considered/reviewed your questions at a virtual meeting yesterday, and here are their responses: -

1. The Town Council are not expecting anything similar to the arrangements in the Town Centre. The preferred option would be no time limit, as Theatre Street a FREE long-term stay car park..
2. No ticket machines and no patrols by Kings Lynn enforcement team.
3. Yes to stop coaches and HGV's from parking in the area, it is appreciated that for the businesses in the vicinity and for the Merle Boddy Centre, there needs to be flexibility to allow for deliveries or as a drop off point. As identified by Highways England, there are plenty of alternative parking areas for HGVs and Coaches in all four directions on the outskirts of the Town.
4. No parking restrictions for cars, including overnight stay.
5. For simplicity access should be 24/7 and 7-days a week.
6. There would be provision for motorhomes/caravans/vans – possibly controlled by a barrier or axle weight restriction (your advice on this would be appreciated).
7. There are no considerations around Market Day or any other Town council needs.

The Transport Committee wish to stress that the aim is to remove the HGVs and Coaches, this could be coupled with a re-arrangement of the line markings to achieve a greater number of vehicle spaces. There would be no restriction for access to any of the existing businesses, the Merle Boddy Centre Charity or for Local Residents. It would be desirable to improve signage to the Car Park, as HGVs are still signposted to the park. There should be an early warning on the Northern entrance to the Town and a repeater sign closer to the Car Park.

If there are any issues we haven't thought of that crop up in the public consultation, then they can be addressed jointly with Breckland. The overall aim is in line with our Neighbourhood Plan policies and a step in the right direction to reducing air pollution in Station Street, which in recent years had an Air Quality Action Plan as a result of poor air quality very close to this designated HGV park.

It is the intention to take the above comments to the Full Council meeting on 19th May for any final comments, which I will forward in due course. I look forward to hearing from you as to the next steps for this project. If there is anything that is not clear, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best regards,

Richard Bishop
Town Clerk



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From: Taylor-Avery, Simon <simon.taylor-avery@breckland.gov.uk>

Sent: 27 April 2021 08:36

To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council <townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>

Cc: Burton, Ralph <Ralph.Burton@breckland.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: HGV Park in Station Street, Swaffham

Thanks Richard

It's a step in the right direction, but we need to be clear about the detail before start work on a preposed set of parking orders.

I can see that the Town Council is keen to remove HGV parking and we can include that in a proposal. But we need to know what is expected around the other elements.

Is the TC expecting and similar set up to the Market Place?... 2hr enforced maximum stay with no return within 1 hr with the same fines and restrictions.

Ticket machines and patrols by King's Lynn enforcement ?

Are you looking to stop all Coach parking in the day?

Will it be a longer stay limit (3,4,6hrs) with overnight parking allowed between 6pm and 8am, if so for whom.

Will it run Monday to Friday, or at weekends?

Will it be just for cars or will there be provision for motorhomes, caravans, Vans ?

Are there any consideration around Market day or any other TC needs.

It very important to get the Parking Order detail correct before we start legal works as changing them will require more legal work and time to achieve if there is a change of requirement at any point in the process.

I would be grateful if you could answer these questions before we progress with any background works.

Regards

Simon Taylor-Avery , MBIFM, CIBSE | Facilities Manager | **Breckland Council** | 07778 491575.
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From: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council <townclerk@swaffhamtowncouncil.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 April 2021 08:58

To: Taylor-Avery, Simon <simon.taylor-avery@breckland.gov.uk>

Cc: Burton, Ralph <Ralph.Burton@breckland.gov.uk>

Subject: HGV Park in Station Street, Swaffham

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Dear Simon,

Further to our previous discussion with Highways England and their subsequent comment relating to changing the status of the HGV Park in Station Street, as they have no objections to the proposed change or call upon the park to remain in use for HGVs, as alternatives exist in all directions, but predominantly East and west of Swaffham.

Changing the status of the HGV Park in Station Street is an issue that came out of Swaffham Town Council's Transport, Access, and Environment Committee. The concept was to challenge why Swaffham is encouraging HGVs to park up in Station Street, which was the part of town adjudged to have an air quality problem. This resulted in an Air Quality Action Plan being drawn up and many air quality issues were taken up within the Neighbourhood Plan made in May 2019.

By excluding HGV's and using more as a car park, coupled with signage improvements at the Northern end of the Town, it was thought it could reduce some traffic movements, as some cars would not enter the Town Centre, and some HGVs would not have an overnight stay in this area, it was thought there was already adequate overnight parking provision for HGVs on the A47.

It is appreciated that some form of consultation will have to take place and there are HGVs still using the park at present, both in the form of delivery lorries and coaches. The latter out of convenience to accommodate locally based drivers for a particular coach company, that should be able to make provision for their drivers closer to their depot.

The change of use to a car park, will help to regulate some of the current misuse of the park. As it has in the past become a dumping ground for untaxed cars, a temporary park for some of the car repair businesses in the area, whilst work was in progress over a substantial period of time. Regular overnight coach stays, which are more convenience than necessity, due to the local drivers living in the town. Actual HGVs usage percentage wise appears to be very small by comparison.

Changing to a car park will benefit the town centre, as well as the growing number of businesses in Station Street itself. There would need to be signage on the edge of the town as an early warning that long-term free parking is available, and a repeat signage level with the car park itself. The possible addition of an information board, showing where the car park is in relation to other facilities in the town, available within walking distance. This is something the Town Council have done in Theatre Street and other locations, to some success.

This outlines the position of the Town Council, and we look forward to working with Breckland Council over the coming months towards achieving these aims. If you or Ralph require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best regards,

Richard Bishop
Town Clerk



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