

Interview Responses

Mr M Reeves (Hackney)

1) How has the lack of parking enforcement affected you?

Mr Reeves felt that this had an impact on a daily basis, with many ranks full with private vehicles leaving no access to ranks. Drivers often suffered abuse if they asked members of the public to move.

2) Do you think the roads have become more dangerous through lack of parking enforcement?

Mr Reeves stated that there was nobody to move people on, with many parking on junctions, zebra crossings and bus stops and lorries left in the middle of the roads. Mr Reeves felt that it was an accident waiting to happen.

3) How should Civil parking be introduced? (immediately or phased over a couple of weeks)

Mr Reeves stated that it should be an immediate introduction as many people have been expecting civil parking for a long time.

4) What impact will civil parking have on you?

Civil Parking would allow freer movement of traffic, and ultimately fares for passengers would be reduced as there would be less waiting time due to a reduction in the amount of illegally parked cars.

Supplementary question – What could the major problems arising from civil parking be?

Additional abuse to parking attendants, although in the long run it would benefit the town, and would help the buses stick to their timetables.

Mr D Hopkins (private hire)

1) How has the lack of parking enforcement affected you?

Mr Hopkins felt that the scheme should have been introduced 12 months ago. The lack of parking has impacted on junctions, parking bays, loading bays and taxi ranks.

2) Do you think the roads have become more dangerous through lack of parking enforcement?

Yes the roads are definitely more dangerous due to hidden junctions and badly parked cars.

3) How should Civil parking be introduced? (immediately or phased over a couple of weeks)

Mr Hopkins was aware that the scheme would be phased in over a three week period.

4) What impact will civil parking have on you?

Mr Hopkins stated that it would mean easier access as ranks and loading bays would be freed up, Mr Hopkins also felt that fares would be reduced due to the reduction in the amount of illegally or badly parked vehicles.

Supplementary question – What will be the benefits of the civil parking scheme?

Mr Hopkins felt that Eastbourne would be a better safer place, with the flow of traffic improved and short stays improving the parking available for those just wishing to visit the banks.

Mr Hopkins also advised that he had been passing the trades' comments to East Sussex County Council throughout the year and that the sooner the scheme was introduced the better.

M Reid (Chamber of Commerce)

1) How has the lack of parking enforcement affected you?

Mr Reid stated that there were mixed views from the Chamber – Traders, buses and the ambulance service were keen to see the scheme introduced, whereas employers were not, however those needing deliveries saw the scheme as beneficial. Mr Reid stated that it was essential something was done to improve the situation in Eastbourne.

2) Do you think the roads have become more dangerous through lack of parking enforcement?

Mr Reid felt that the town had become more dangerous especially at junctions, with more accidents as drivers could not see clearly.

3) How should Civil parking be introduced? (immediately or phased over a couple of weeks)

Mr Reid advised that the scheme was being introduced on 13 October 2008, in three phases

- a) 13 October – more detailed warnings.
- b) 20 October – fines introduced
- c) 3 November – Free permits would expire and all permits would need to be pre-paid.

4) What impact will civil parking have on you?

The Retailers are largely happy although there are no complimentary measures in car parks. There are issues around safety travelling from work to car parks at night. Also there were issues within the car parks around lighting, cleanliness and the lifts. Mr Reid also stated that queries had been raised regarding improved cycle lanes, and cycle storage, motorcycle parking, rail links and improvements to the condition of the pavements.

Supplementary questions – Mr Reid was asked how he felt about NCP running the parking enforcement in Eastbourne. It was suggested that the NCP wardens would be travelling throughout the town via the bus service, which would be beneficial in outlying shopping areas such as Albert Parade.

Supplementary question – Are there any other improvements needed in the light of the introduction of the civil parking?

Mr Reid again highlighted the need to sort out the car parks and suggested that perhaps Eastbourne Borough and East Sussex County Council's could work with NCP to improve the facilities available.

Mr J Robins (ESCC on behalf of NCP)

1) How has the lack of parking enforcement affected you?

Mr Robins felt that the strategy was a fundamental element for Eastbourne, and that the absence of control affected buses and other public transport. Most people would chose free parking instead of paying which would affect residents as commuters would often occupy premium spaces. It also affected road safety and the amenity of the town.

2) Do you think the roads have become more dangerous through lack of parking enforcement?

Mr Robins felt that this was hard to prove although it was widely accepted that there was an obstruction to visibility and access for emergency vehicles.

3) How should Civil parking be introduced? (immediately or phased over a couple of weeks)

Mr Robins advised that enforcement started on 13 October 2008 with a light touch. Charging would commence on 20 October 2008 and current permits would be valid until 3 November 2008 at which point pre-pay permits would be required. This was a three week phase-in of the scheme. The most serious breaches would be dealt with in the first instance.

Mr Robins provided a breakdown of warning notices issued since January 2008, a copy of the parking charter and East Sussex County Council Operational Parking Policies. Mr Robins also stated that bus corridors would be targeted along with others areas brought to the County's attention.

4) What impact will civil parking have on you?

Mr Robins felt that the scheme would have a beneficial effect with people using the car park and public transport more. Although it may spread the parking issues out to the outskirts of the town centre and residential areas around railways stations, in the long run this should help residents and retailers in the immediate town centre.

Hospitality Association

1) How has the lack of parking enforcement affected you?

It was stated that there was confusion amongst hotels guests as to where they could park, hotels with car parks would be unaffected.

2) Do you think the roads have become more dangerous through lack of parking enforcement?

Junctions were more dangerous, although the Police had enforced in the more dangerous situations. It was noted that blue badge holders would often park across dropped curbs and in coach parking bays.

3) How should Civil parking be introduced? (immediately or phased over a couple of weeks)

It should be brought in immediately to avoid confusion.

4) What impact will civil parking have on you?

Concern was raised regarding the lack of public transport for those working early shifts, those who drove would have to leave to add money to meters halfway through service.

Perhaps there should be complimentary services – park and ride and extra buses throughout the night/early morning. Vouchers were available for hotels but the invoicing system was unclear it was also suggested that notices regarding vouchers should be placed on machines near the hotels to better inform visitors.