

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 19 JULY 2013
ORDINARY MEETING**

Question from Councillor WLS Bowen

Parking Meters at Brockington

1 *As new parking charges have been brought in at a time when Council staff are feeling demotivated, could answers be provided to the following points:*

- *How much has it cost to install the parking meters and signage at Brockington?*
- *How much does it cost to monitor and enforce the new parking regulations at Brockington?*
- *Are you aware that the new parking regulations at Brockington have led to neighbouring streets becoming cluttered with Council officers' cars, much to the annoyance and discomfort of the local residents?*
- *How much cash has the parking meters collected so far?*
- *Do you really think that the new parking regulations are either a good or worthwhile innovation?*

Answer from Councillor PD Price, Cabinet Member Highways and Transportation.

Answer to question 1

The cost of meters and signs at Brockington was £3,640.

It isn't possible to give meaningful income figures specifically in relation to the Brockington site as the introduction of parking regulations at council office car parks affects a number of sites, day tickets are transferable between those sites, and some staff have taken up the option to purchase season tickets. With that caveat in mind I can confirm that actual cash taken from the meters during the first full month of operation was £793; income to date in respect of season ticket sales (covering all council office car parks) totals £11,400.

There are no additional costs of enforcement as the additional car parking sites have been incorporated into existing officer patrols.

We are aware of reports from two local residents with regard to parking on nearby streets, and staff have been reminded of the need to park considerately. Whilst this does not appear to be as significant an issue as the question may suggest, we continue to monitor the situation and will take action where appropriate.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the introduction of charges is not popular with many staff, and that there is no 'perfect solution' to the sensitive issue of parking, as a council we must ensure as best we can equality for staff and residents alike. As with charges in public car parks for commuters, it is felt that

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 19 JULY 2013
ORDINARY MEETING**

this principle of equality can be supported in part by implementing parking charges at council buildings where it is sensible and cost effective to do so. Not to have included the Brockington site, where senior managers are based, would not have been equitable.

The policy is also in keeping with the council's commitment to supporting and promoting increased sustainable travel across Herefordshire and enables Herefordshire Council to reflect an exemplar approach to local businesses. The Local Transport Plan has identified that 10,000 car journeys of less than three miles are made every morning in Hereford during peak times. It is hoped that parking charges will encourage more staff to consider alternative means of travel such as walking, cycling or public transport, which will help to reduce congestion and CO2 emissions.

Supplementary Question

It was questioned how the cost of enforcement could not have increased. Concern about the discomfort to local residents as a result of officers parking on nearby streets was reiterated.

Cabinet Member Response

The Cabinet Member replied that it was too early to assess the full impact of introducing charges. He would, however, monitor the situation and report back in due course.

Question from Councillor TM James

Payments to Third Party Agents/Organisations

- 2 *Can the Cabinet Member responsible for Economic Development inform Members whether any fees or monies will be paid by the Council to any third party agents or organisations relating to the collapse of the deal to locate hi-tech aerospace jobs to Hereford and Ross-on-Wye and if so, how much?*

Answer from Councillor RJ Phillips Cabinet Member Enterprise & Culture

Answer to question 2

I am happy to confirm that no fees or monies will be paid by the council to any third party agents or organisations in respect of this matter.

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 19 JULY 2013
ORDINARY MEETING**

I would also like to correct the suggestion that a 'deal' has 'collapsed'. It is perfectly normal for potential investors to explore development opportunities; it would be exceptional if all came to fruition. As you would expect from a prudent authority, we have made no financial or other assumptions based on speculative interest, and continue to work with other potential investors interested in these sites and as such are continuing with site infrastructure and servicing work.

Supplementary Question

It was asked whether the due diligence had been undertaken, suggesting that greater caution should have been exercised.

Cabinet Member Response

The Cabinet Member replied that due diligence had been undertaken. The Council had shown appropriate caution. As Cabinet Member it had been incumbent upon him to meet a Trade Minister offering potential investment in the County. He expected to be able to make an announcement soon about local companies investing in the Enterprise Zone.