

**Needham Market Town Council**  
**Planning Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**

**Present were:**

Martin O'Shea, Chair, Cll's Ost, Lea, Annis, A Reardon, J Reardon, Stansfield, and Norris.

4 members of the public, District Council Portfolio holder Cllr Jessica Flemming, Sarah Gilson BMSDC, Sharon Bayliss BMSDC and Adam Bunce from 2020 Consulting.

**Apologies received from:** Cllrs Cave and Phillips.

The committee received a power point presentation on the preparation of a new District Parking Policy which for Needham Market concerned the BMSDC carparks at the Railway Station and Needham Lakes.

Their surveys, carried out on a selection of times and dates, told us what most Cllrs already knew, that at both these locations they were used at almost 100 percent capacity, especially at peak periods, holidays and at weekends. A suggestion was made from the floor regarding the possibility a multi-storey extension to the railway station parking.

They have provided all Cllrs with copies of the presentation with a request that we respond with our comments and priorities by 11<sup>th</sup> May with further 'roadshow' details and times to be included in a report for next 'Newsletter' (8<sup>th</sup> May deadline)

Questions were largely concerned with the provision of adequate parking to maintain the health of our High Street and the attendant businesses.

Questions were raised about the on High Street parking and who patrolled it (SCC) and what could be done to improve the current situation (restricted parking 1 or 2hour limits)

Comments were also raised regarding the Residents roadside parking in particular Quinton Road and the Primary School.

One question raised the problem faced by householders trying to have dropped kerbs installed so they could park in their front gardens. There appears to be some opposition from planning for these alterations, also the expense incurred by doing so.

One comment highlighted the problem caused by the lack of adequate parking on new developments, particularly on School Street with displaced roadside parking putting undue pressure on the Community Centre which has provided adequate parking for its own activities but cannot be expected to provide parking for all displaced residents.

It was also mentioned that the parking for Needham Market shoppers has been aggravated by the residential development of the Hurstlea Road carpark, which although originally primarily for Council staff parking, was freely available at weekend. **This development was authorised by BMSDC, on their behalf.**

Sarah Gilson mentioned that improvements to payment meters were in hand to provide card payment as the preferred method. Comments about the previous attempt by BMSDC to install meters at Needham Lakes had resulted in their vandalism, with one meter ending up in the lake! **The parking survey team were unaware of this.**

This part of the committee meeting finished around 8pm the planning committee received the following applications for consideration:

DC/22/01109 a reapplication for the advertising display and lighting of 64/66 High Street. We previously objected on the grounds of the conservation area supporting the Neighbourhood Plan. There was confusion as the application heading gave the same details as previously, although some conditions had been removed. The committee decided to **Object** this application that it was still inappropriate in a conservation area without illuminated signage and with 'window graphics' and 'poster units' included within the BMSDC notification statement.

Deadline 5/5/22

DC/22/01562 Redevelopment of part of the caravan park on Barrett's Lane.

The committee had visited the site and thought that this redevelopment represents an overdevelopment of the site. Questions were raised about the inadequate water supply pressure already experienced by other park residents, and the suitability of existing sewage treatment provision and whether it could cope with the extra units. The committee decided to **Object** to this application.

Deadline 10/5/22

DC/22/01907 (LB) Application replace windows and door at the rear of 126/128 High Street.

After some discussion the committee decided to **Object** to this application on the grounds that the materials suggested were inappropriate in the context of this listed property. They would have no objection to the changes if they were made in sympathy with the existing building.

Application deadline 19/5/22

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm