

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND CORPORATE ASSETS

DOVER JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 29 MARCH 2018

## **MOTOR HOME PARKING CONTROLS**

### **Recommendation:**

The Board is asked to agree to consult on proposals to introduce restrictions on the parking of motorhomes overnight on Marine Parade and Waterloo Crescent, Dover and The Beach, Walmer.

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the situation regarding the parking of motorhomes further to earlier reports to The Board and seeks agreement to consult on proposals to introduce restrictions on the parking of Motorhomes on Marine Parade and Waterloo Crescent, Dover and The Beach, Walmer.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 Concerns regarding overnight parking of Motorhomes, were first reported to the Board in September 2014. At that time, the focus of the concerns was the seafront areas in Dover and Walmer. The Board resolved:
- (a) That an overnight ban from 6.00pm to 6.00am, Monday to Sunday, on motor caravans parking on Marine Parade and Waterloo Crescent, Dover and The Beach, Walmer be advertised.
  - (b) That officers be instructed to explore options for the provision of alternative parking for both sites, including holding discussions with third parties as appropriate.
- 2.2 Ongoing discussions ensued with the Port of Dover and others regarding the availability of alternative sites, with no clear options coming forward at that time.
- 2.3 This issue was then given thorough consideration during the development of the Parking strategies for Dover, Deal and Sandwich.
- 2.4 The Dover Parking Strategy notes that; *“The analysis has also identified pockets of overnight on-street parking by motorhomes, as well as on-street coach parking. Whilst the introduction of overnight restrictions could be introduced, this is unlikely to be cost effective for the council in terms of an enforcement regime. A limited enforcement regime could still act as a deterrent and is likely to still considerably reduce the level of overnight parking. Similar approaches have been adopted by other seaside towns looking to keep their waterfront areas clear. A more proactive solution would be the identification of specific provision for motorhomes, as well as additional coach parking within the town.”*
- 2.5 Whilst the search for a permanent arrangement for the parking of motorhomes continued, proposals to introduce a small charge of £7.50 per night for motorhomes

choosing to park overnight on Dover seafront, was agreed by the cabinet at Dover DC in April 2017, although this has yet to be put into effect.

- 2.6 In taking any action on this matter it has always been recognised that there is a need to balance the interest of local residents, and the concerns they express regarding the parking of such vehicles, with the wider benefits to the local visitor economy of tourists arriving in Motorhomes.
- 2.7 However it has not been possible to identify realistic alternative locations, where Motorhomes might park and so this report acknowledges the difficulties involved in dealing with the legitimate concerns being voiced and seeks agreement to the introduction of limited controls on the parking of motorhomes.

### 3. Proposed Controls

#### 3.1 Dover Seafront

The Council has over recent years received regular complaints from local residents regarding the impact of motorhomes parking on the seafront at Dover, which as can be seen from the following photos can sometimes be quite intrusive.





- 3.2 Equally, the Council in promoting White Cliffs Country as a tourist destination is keen to ensure that the Councils is doing all it can to support the local tourism economy.
- 3.3 In recent years the number of Motorhomes parking overnight has increased significantly with online forums such as [campercontact.com](http://campercontact.com), [motorhomefun.co.uk](http://motorhomefun.co.uk), etc. actively promote Dover Seafront as a location where Motorhomes may park.
- 3.4 Most Motorhome appear to park overnight or for a relatively short term before catching a ferry, but there have been examples, especially in Walmer, of vehicles which appear to have been used for a lengthy stay.
- 3.5 Action can be taken against vehicles being used for long term accommodation through the Magistrates Court, but clearly this is not a cost effective approach to dealing with the issue.
- 3.6 The parking of Motorhomes overnight or longer on Marine Parade and Waterloo Crescent, Dover and The Beach, Walmer is detrimental to the amenity of the area and it is therefore proposed that this situation be addressed by introducing regulations to prohibit Motorhomes from parking on Marine Parade and Waterloo Crescent, Dover and The Beach, Walmer between the hours of 8.00 pm and 8.00 am.
- 4. Identification of Options**
- 4.1 Option 1. To agree to consult on the proposal to prohibit Motorhomes from parking on Marine Parade and Waterloo Crescent, Dover and The Beach, Walmer between the hours of 8.00 pm and 8.00 am.
- 4.2 Option 2. To amend the proposal outlined in option 1 as determined by the Board and to agree to undertake a consultation based on the revised proposal(s).
- 4.3 Option 3. To take no action.
- 3. Resource Implications**
- 3.1 The funding will be covered by the Parking Operations budget.
- 4. Appendices**
- None.

5. **Background Papers**

None.

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