



Council

Date: 10 October 2022

Title: Car park at Linslade Memorial Playing Fields and Garden of Remembrance

Purpose of the Report:

To consider proposals from Central Bedfordshire Council for car park management and installation of electric vehicle charging points in the above car park.

Contact Officer:

Mark Saccoccio, Town Clerk
Sarah Sandiford, Deputy Town Clerk

Corporate Objective/s	n/a	
Implications:		
Financial	Yes	Cost of £5,800 for ticket machines.
Human Resources	No	
Operational/Service delivery	No	Permits would be needed to enable facilities users to stay longer than 2 hours.
Procedural/Legal	Yes	S20 Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 (see attached legal note)
Risk/Health and Safety	Yes	Security risk of leaving car park open 24/7 to be considered.
Environmental Aims	Yes	Provision of EV charging points will benefit residents wishing to use more sustainable modes of transport.

1 RECOMMENDATION/S

Should the Council be minded, the proposals are:

- 1.1 To consider endorsing proposed car parking management measures at Linslade Memorial Playing Fields and Garden of Remembrance, including management by the town council of permits and proposed restrictions.
- 1.2 To agree the funding of ticket machines from reserves (options at section 5)

- 1.3 **To consider endorsing the installation by Central Bedfordshire Council of 4 Electric Vehicle charging points over 8 bays in the car park, noting that the car park will need to be kept open overnight to enable use by residents 24/7.**
- 1.4 **To support Central Bedfordshire Council going out to consultation on a Traffic Regulation Order that applies controls to the car park.**

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In summer 2019, concerns were raised at the Planning and Transport Committee regarding adequacy of car parking at Linslade Memorial Playing Fields and Garden of Remembrance. It was considered that the car park was being used for purposes other than the use of the Memorial Pavilion or other on-site facilities, with people parking in spaces for a number of hours.
- 2.2 Rather than encroaching into the park to extend the car park, in July 2019 it was agreed to approach Central Bedfordshire Council with regard to possible enforcement of parking restrictions. This request was followed up with further correspondence in March 2020, but no progress was made.
- 2.3 In August 2021, officers responded to a request for car park information submitted by Central Bedfordshire Council. The information was requested to help CBC assess the suitability of car parks across the region for installation of public-access Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, as set out by their Sustainability Plan (adopted 2020) and Electric Vehicle Charge Point Plan (2021).
- 2.4 In January 2022, CBC appointed BP Pulse as their Charge Point Operator and work was undertaken to assess all of the 200 sites for which scoping information had been gathered, to determine potentially workable sites to put forward for Government funding through the On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme. This work identified 12 potential sites for the grant bid, including 2 in Leighton-Linslade – one (Baker Street) in the ownership of the local authority and one (Linslade Memorial Playing Fields and Garden of Remembrance) in the ownership of the Town Council.

3 THE PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The proposal seeks to install 4 dual socket 7kW fast EV charging points across 8 bays at each site, for use by local residents who do not have access to off-street parking and therefore cannot safely charge an electric vehicle at home.
- 3.2 Charge points are most likely to be used overnight and there is therefore a requirement for 24/7 access. Currently, the car park is locked overnight for security purposes.

- 3.3 Central Bedfordshire Council will receive a 50% profit share from EV charge points. For Linslade Memorial Playing Fields car park, the Town Council as landowner would receive this income.
- 3.4 Central Bedfordshire Council would cover the cost of installation, signage, lining etc.
- 3.5 Given the previous discussions in 2019/2020 and mindful that installation of EV points would further reduce parking availability for park and pavilion users, officers requested that CBC investigate the possibility of parking management at Linslade Memorial Playing Fields car park.
- 3.6 The proposal put forward reflects arrangements in place at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre on the same road, whereby users would need to use a (free) parking ticket to allow them to park for a designated period (proposed: up to 3 hours, between the hours of 8am – 8pm seven days per week, including Bank Holidays). There would be no time limit for EV charging.
- 3.7 The Town Council would be able to introduce and manage a permit scheme for users of the site with a legitimate need to park for longer than this period.
- 3.8 CBC Civil Enforcement Officers would patrol the car park and undertake enforcement of vehicles who overstay the allowed period or were not plugged in and charging at EV charge points.
- 3.9 CBC has requested that the Town Council fund the cost of the necessary ticket machines. Machines to be cashless and solar powered, but capable of future upgrade in case ever required to accept payments in future.

4 APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION & POLICIES

- 4.1 The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 (s20) gives a local council the power to encourage or promote generation or efficiency of use of energy within their area, as well as the provision of information, advice and assistance. A local council cannot directly sell electricity (see NALC Legal Topic Note 89 attached).
- 4.2 S111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives local councils the power to “do anything to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions” (e.g. car parking in this case).
- 4.3 Leighton-Linslade Town Council previously adopted a set of environmental ambitions and in 2021, declared a climate emergency.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is no provision in the revenue budget for the proposed cost of car park ticket machines (£5,800).

- 5.2 The Highways Schemes earmarked reserve has an available balance of £37,580 but with up to £25,000 currently committed to potential match funding of schemes for which applications have been submitted to the Central Bedfordshire Rural Match Fund, leaving £12,580 currently unallocated.
- 5.3 The Climate Emergency earmarked reserved has £10,000 available.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Council will need to consider the environmental considerations against security concerns, as well as the proposed arrangements for enforcing time limited car parking at Linslade Memorial Playing Fields.

End.

Appendices:

**NALC Legal Topic Note 89: Sustainable Energy and Electric Vehicle Charging
(March 2022)
CBC Briefing Note to Grounds & Environmental Committee 5 September 2022**