

MEETING OF COMMISSIONER KENNY
Monday, 2nd November, 2015

Present:- Commissioner J. Kenny.

Also in attendance Councillor D. Lelliott, Advisory Cabinet Member.

31. DECISION SHEET AND MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER, 2015.

The decision sheet and minutes of Commissioner Kenny's last meeting held on 5th October, 2015, were considered and accepted as accurate records.

32. TOWN CENTRE PARKING INITIATIVES.

Commissioner Kenny considered the report submitted by the Parking Services Manager (Environment and Development Services Directorate) that outlined the proposal to make permanent the initiative that had been trialled on Forge Island, with a reduction in the maximum stay down to two hours.

The report outlined that the Forge Island parking initiative had been put in place following suggestions from representatives of Town Centre businesses.

Forge Island opened as a public 'pay and display' car park on 17th November, 2014. On opening the car park, which has 309 parking bays, the Council offered 70 parking bays in a 'Red Zone' for free parking for a limited time of up-to one hour. This was increased to three hours in March 2015 following a request from businesses. This was introduced on a trial basis.

This option has proved popular and the Red Zone parking bays had been well used. Several customers had stated their disagreement with having to pay £1 for two hours parking in the rest of the car park, when the Red Zone provision of 70 bays was free for up-to three hours. The Council's Civil Enforcement Officers had reported that the bays were being used by individuals based in Riverside House and shoppers had been unable to find a bay in the Red Zone on a significant number of occasions. A usage survey had been undertaken.

It was suggested that the trial be made permanent from mid-January, 2016.

It was also suggested that the free time be reduced from three hours to

two. This would reduce the opportunities for it to be used by employees of the Council and increase the opportunities for use by shoppers, thereby benefitting the town centre businesses.

Commissioner Kenny was minded to support the proposals as set out in the report. She agreed that her 'minded to' decision should be published for a five working-day stakeholder representation period.