

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 30 November 2020
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Environment and Regeneration
Report Title:	Ogmore-By-Sea Carparks
Purpose of Report:	To provide an update on carparks in Ogmore-By-Sea and to secure improvements to their operation
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport
Responsible Officer:	Miles Punter – Director of Environment and Housing Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning Group Manager Transport Services Operational Manager Engineering Accountant Environment and Housing Services Operational Manager Finance Head of Regeneration and Planning Principal Community Safety Officer Principal Civil Protection Officer Legal Services (Committee Reports)
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
Executive Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to the major anti-social behaviour incident at Rivermouth Car Park Ogmore-By-Sea on Thursday 25th June 2020, Officers have investigated the feasibility of procuring and installing an 'Automatic Number Plate Recognition - Rising Bollard System' (ANPR-RBS) at the car park. • If agreed the proposed ANPR-RBS would provide access management to the Rivermouth Car Park which is part of registered common land owned by the Dunraven Estate but managed by the Council under a Scheme of Regulation and is therefore currently being staffed and monitored everyday by the Council at significant financial cost. It would also provide future resilience for the Council recovering car park charges to reinvest in carpark infrastructure without the need for an enforcement resource. Residents who use the car park to access their properties would still be able to do so free of charge. 	

- This report provides details of an ANPR-RBS installation at Rivermouth carpark in 2020/21 and proposes providing additional measures to protect residential amenity and the registered common at the Brig y Don Car Park in 2021/22 subject to the appropriate statutory consents being obtained.
- The details contained within this report are for noting with a further report on the Agenda at Part II seeking a decision based on relevant financial information which is deemed commercially sensitive.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the contents of this report with a view to taking a decision on the purchasing and installation of an 'Automatic Number Plate Recognition - Rising Bollard System' at Rivermouth Car Park Ogmore-By-Sea, later on this agenda.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To advise Cabinet of the problems experienced at this location and of a possible solution and to allow a decision to be taken under Part II of the agenda.

1. Background

- 1.1 On the evening of Thursday 25th June 2020, a major incident was declared by South Wales Police at Rivermouth car park and beach in Ogmore by Sea following a mass gathering of young people. Pictures and video of the gathering and violent behaviour were shared widely online. The violent scenes showed huge crowds culminating in large scale disorder. Two people were arrested and at least one person was injured. Police appealed for witnesses, videos and dashcam evidence as they progressed their investigations.
- 1.2 Two of the Council's Enforcement Officers were at the scene undertaking a pre-planned operation to prevent and enforce against overnight camping at the carpark. In addition, a cleansing operative was on site until around 8pm following agreement recently for enhanced COVID 19 cleansing and litter regimes when the car parks and toilets recently re-opened in the Vale.
- 1.3 The Police requested the Council to close the Rivermouth car park at around 8.30pm on 25th June 2020. The carpark was closed by the Council's out of hours team. Arrangements were also made for a large cleansing team to be at the site early on the morning of 26th June 2020. Volunteers also assisted with the clear up with some two tonnes of rubbish being collected including bottles, cans and so forth.
- 1.4 It was determined to keep the Rivermouth car park closed on 26th, 27th and 28th June whilst consideration was given over the weekend of the possible next steps. Following this it was decided to keep the Rivermouth car park shut until Monday 6th July 2020 to allow for additional security measures to be arranged for the car park.
- 1.5 The arrangements agreed were to provide two attendants on the car park entrance to reinforce the car park closure over the weekend (8am to 9pm). Visible Messaging Signs were relocated to the junction B4265 Wick Road / B4524 Southerndown Road south St Brides Major and junction B4265 St Brides Road / B4524 Ogmore Road in Ewenny to deter visitors travelling to beach areas at Ogmore-by-Sea & Southerndown area. The message displayed bilingually was 'Beach car parks closed'

- 1.6** In addition, there was an attendant present to open/ cleanse the toilets as well as empty the litter bins etc.
- 1.7** Before the incident officers had been working in partnership with representatives of Ogmore by Sea Community Council, the Police, the Commoners and local residents to seek solutions to various anti-social behaviour issues being experienced by villagers in the car parks at Ogmore by Sea. A virtual Zoom meeting was held with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport, Head of Neighbourhood Services and Transport and representatives of the community on the evening of Tuesday 30th June to discuss recent events and the Council's likely actions.
- 1.8** When the car park is closed pressure is put on surrounding residential areas for parking spaces causing disruption to local residential amenity. Therefore, Rivermouth Car park reopened from Monday 6th July 2020 but at reduced opening hours of 8am to 8pm (rather than 11pm).
- 1.9** To prevent overcrowding in the car park and to assist compliance with the local byelaws as well as ensuring the car park is clean and safe, staffing at this location was temporarily increased until such a time as the car park can be formally closed via a bollards or barrier system or similar. Therefore, until such a time as a more permanent solution is erected within the carpark, the car park is temporarily staffed by car park attendants and cleansing officers who can control the numbers entering the car park as well as keeping the toilets and area free from litter. No entry to the car park was permitted after 7pm and patrons would be asked to leave the car park by 8pm. This was supported by the Police. Since October 2020 the Rivermouth carpark has been opened in the morning as normal with the facilities being shut earlier at dusk.
- 1.10** The entrance to the Rivermouth car park also requires more formal measures to prevent vehicles staying overnight and to ensure that the car park closes to additional vehicles once it is full. Three residential properties are accessed off the carpark and their rights of access also need to be considered. The June incident means the need for the car park to be shut with a barrier or similar is extremely pressing, although it would not have prevented the mass gathering, the car park could have been shut down much quicker. The Council cannot simply erect a barrier at this location as permission is required first from several organisations including the commoners and the relevant Welsh Minister.
- 1.11** A previous report to Cabinet on 27th July 2020 entitled Car Park Displacement, Coastal Areas and other locations with high visitor numbers (Minute number C314 refers) has approved a new Policy for resident permit parking controls to deal with displacement in popular tourist areas including Ogmore by Sea. Resident consultation on this matter was issued in early October 2020 for Main Road and Seaview Drive Ogmore by Sea. The closing date for the consultation was 1st November 2020 and consultation responses are to be considered prior to

determining the progression or otherwise of appropriate traffic orders in these areas to deal with ongoing parking problems. As an interim measure Main Road has traffic cones placed along it to deter inappropriate parking and Seaview Drive has been closed except for access, to again prevent or discourage tourist parking in these residential areas.

- 1.12** Through a partnership approach between the Council and South Wales Police it has also been arranged to install a deployable CCTV camera within the Rivermouth car park at Ogmere by Sea to assist in the prevention and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour. The CCTV camera is deployable, so will not be a permanent camera, however the infrastructure that supports the camera will be a permanent feature which will allow officers to move deployable cameras around the Vale as necessary.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** Since June 2020 Officers have been looking at the feasibility of providing a barrier or bollard pay on exit ANPR system at Rivermouth carpark. In addition, Officers have been considering putting additional measures to protect residential amenity and the Common at the Brig y Don Carpark.
- 2.2** A Specialist Company were engaged to examine the feasibility of an ANPR-RBS (Automatic Number Plate Recognition - Rising Bollard System) being installed at Rivermouth Car Park, along with associated costs for supply and installation. This reputable company has provided and installed similar systems for other neighbouring authorities such as the "Ring of Steel" in Cardiff City Centre.
- 2.3** Currently, Rivermouth Car Park is being staffed daily to ensure capacity within the car park does not exceed 250 spaces in order to protect the Common and deter nuisance to neighbouring properties. This continues to be at significant cost to the Service Area.
- 2.4** Car park opening and closure times will be fully managed via the ANPR-RBS, this will afford flexibility in operation and will enable a fully controlled management system preventing access outside of stated operational hours, which will also mitigate anti-social behaviour which tends to be more prevalent in the hours of darkness.
- 2.5** The ANPR-RBS would operate as follows:
- Vehicle approaches to access car park, the vehicles number plate will be recorded by a camera, along with the time of access and communicate this to the pay machines located in the car park. The bollard will drop assuming capacity has not been reached in the car park. The vehicle will park; prior to the vehicle leaving the appropriate tariff must be paid for the period of stay, this will be done by inputting the vehicle registration and paying accordingly by the methods available. The vehicle can then

drive towards the exit bollard where the camera will read the vehicle number plate and will receive confirmation from the pay machine that the correct tariff has been paid and drop the exit bollard. The vehicle can then exit accordingly.

- There will be the additional facility of an information sign located on Main Road which will display if the car park is full.
- Should cars stay in the carpark after closing time or overnight an out of hours charge plus the appropriate parking fee will need to be paid before exit is allowed.

2.6 There are three residential properties with right of access via the Rivermouth Car Park and therefore consideration has been given to those residents who require access. Officers have met the residents on site on several occasions and generally they are supportive of the measures proposed. The proposed system will allow unfettered access to residents by uploading their car registrations to the system which will then recognise and accommodate their free movement. Residents will be provided regularly with a changing four-digit code which they can provide to their visitors allowing access via a keypad. Should there be a power failure the bollards will drop below ground until power is resumed. There is also the facility of manual over-ride of the system. Emergency vehicles will also require access and will be catered for accordingly through the provision of a code for use if the carpark is closed.

2.7 The introduction of an ANPR-RBS at Rivermouth car park will also ensure that any issue of lost revenue from non-payment of car park charges is negated, as exit from the carpark will only be permitted once the appropriate tariff has been paid, via cash, contactless, chip and dip or pay by phone app. This will allow the Council to fully recover car parking charges without intervention from enforcement.

2.8 Whilst this work has been being undertaken, officers have met with the local ward member, the commoners and landowner to discuss other issues of concern in the area. One concern raised has been the need to provide additional measures to protect the amenity of residential properties surrounding the Brig-Y-Don Car park. This is proposed to be achieved by reducing the extent of the parking areas through the use of large stone blocks in order to ensure that patrons are parked suitably away from residential property boundaries which adjoin the car park.

2.9 The Common between Ogmores-By-Sea and Southerndown, which the B4524 meanders through, provides areas of interest for tourists, access to the cliff and coastline and vehicle parking. Over the years this has been at the detriment to the Common with damage being caused to the verge areas which affords grazing for sheep and is fundamental to the future of the Common. To ensure the integrity, longevity and protection of the Common for future generations to

enjoy and experience, it is proposed to assist the landowner and commoners in closing a section of the Common to vehicles to allow the common to regenerate. Large stone bollards at the area adjacent to 'The Barn' at West Farm are also proposed to be installed in conjunction with the Commoners and Landowner.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The well-being goals and objectives of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, are met by the implementing the proposed ANPR-RBS at Rivermouth car Park Ogmore -by-Sea and the proposals for protecting residential amenity and the Common at the Brig-Y-Don car Park.
- 3.2** A Prosperous Wales - ensuring effective management of the car park and full recovery of parking charges, providing essential income for the Council.
- 3.3** A Resilient Wales - improvement and safeguarding of the Council's temporary carpark operation.
- 3.4** A Healthier Wales - facilitating a managed car park in a location that encourages the public to visit and exercise along the Ogmore coastline and river.
- 3.5** A Wales of Cohesive Communities - an ANPR-RBS located at the Rivermouth Car Park will benefit local residents and the local community by managing volumes within the car park and as a result will reduce anti-social behaviour and further discourage over-night parking due to proposed out of hours charges and control over access and exit.
- 3.6** A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language – through the introduction of an ANPR-RBS and other remedial works, will assist in protecting the historical Ogmore coastline, river and Common, with signage and lining elements meeting the requirements of the Welsh Language Act.
- 3.7** A Globally Responsible Wales - by managing access to Rivermouth Car park and the Common, will protect these areas for future generations.
- 3.8** Five Ways of Working (collaboration, integration, involvement, long-term, prevention), considered for the provision of the ANPR-RBS and protection works to the Common.
- 3.9** Collaboration - these proposals have been as a direct result of collaboration /engagement with South Wales Police, Land Owners, Commoners, the Local Member, the Community Council and Local Residents.
- 3.10** Integration - with the Vale of Glamorgan's Wellbeing Plan and in accordance with Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

- 3.11** Involvement - between key stakeholders within the Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales Police, Land Owners, Commoners, Local Members and Local Residents.
- 3.12** Long-term - providing new and improved parking management system to help prevent further incidents as experienced on Thursday 25th June 2020, safeguarding the local residents and community. Provide future resilience in the Council recovering car park charges without the need for enforcement resource.
- 3.13** Prevention - Prevent existing problems of anti-social behaviour affecting residents and the wider community by controlling numbers of vehicles accessing the car park and the proximity of parking to residential properties. Prevention of further damage, erosion of the Common at Brig-Y-Don. Prevent negative financial impact through loss of income to the Council from members of the public not paying the car parking tariffs.
- 3.14** Current and future generations of Vale residents and visitors enjoy the built and natural environments of Ogmores-By-Sea, facilitated by providing managed car park and by protection measures to the Common.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** The Ogmores by Sea Car Park Refurbishments scheme approved in the 2020/21 Capital Programme will fund the ANPR-RBS (Automatic Number Plate Recognition - Rising Bollard System) being installed at Rivermouth Car Park, along with associated costs for installation.
- 4.2** The measures proposed at Brig-Y-Don car park are proposed to be carried out in 2021/22 and it is anticipated this will be funded from the Neighbourhood Services and Transport asset renewal budget subject to approval of the Capital Strategy 2021/22 and Final Capital Proposals 2021/22 to 2025/26 report that will be brought to Cabinet in February 2021.
- 4.3** By introducing the ANPR-RBS at Rivermouth Car Park, Ogmores by Sea it is anticipated that this will significantly reduce levels of non-payment from cars using the car park.
- 4.4** The report is for noting with a further report on the Agenda at Part II seeking a decision based on relevant financial information which is deemed commercially sensitive.

Employment

- 4.5** It is proposed to use specialist suppliers for the supply and installation of an ANPR-RBS at Rivermouth Car Park Ogmores-By-Sea, with local Contractors being used to implement protection measures to the Common.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.6** The proposals contained in the reports are consistent with Welsh Government and Council Policies.

5. Background Papers

None