

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Trustee Committee

**DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Gerald Pleace  
**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875566

**WARD(S):** All wards

### **PART I** **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **SALT HILL PARK – CAR PARK AND GRASSED AREA USAGE FOR THE VACCINATION CENTRE**

1. **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to respond to questions raised in relation to car parking at the Vaccination Centre – Salt Hill Park.

2. **Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to note the current arrangements for the use of the car park and additional grassed area.

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Whilst the Council's Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities are relevant the Committee's primary duties are to consider the best interests of the Trust and not the Council's strategic priorities. If there is a conflict between the best interests of the Trust and those of the Council, the interests of the Trust must prevail.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Whilst the Council's Five Year Plan outcomes are relevant, the Committee's primary duties are to consider the best interests of the Trust and not the Council's strategic priorities. If there is a conflict between the best interests of the Trust and those of the Council, the interests of the Trust must prevail.

Outcome 3 of the Five Year Plan 2019-24 states that "Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay".

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

Full costs of remedial works will be covered by Health Authorities.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
No management or maintenance	The major risk is creating barriers to easy access for residents to the vaccination centre	Reporting through Silver	High	None

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications in regard to the proposed project.

The Trustees are obliged to ensure the maintenance, protection and repair of the park areas on Trust land. The Trust deeds also oblige the Trustees to observe and perform the covenants affecting the trust land set out in the Trust Deeds and the Trustees must therefore ensure that the terms of those covenants are not breached and that provision is made in the Trust's finances for any costs associated with such covenants.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

The current arrangements were put in place to ensure that our residents and especially the elderly had easy access to the vaccination centre

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 This report provides a response to the following questions and concerns raised by a Trustee

- Unauthorised car park that destroying the grass area to right of the entrance into the authorised car park in front of the Activities Centre currently being used as the COVID vaccine centre!
- Who authorised this additional car park and who is going to be responsible for the remedial works to put it back as now a muddy quagmire?
- Why are ordinary users of the park not being allowed to park in the official and overflow car park to side and rear of the activity centre?
- Why was the request if any re additional car parking needs not brought to the Trustees committee?

5.2 The decision to use the land in question for additional car park space was sanctioned by Silver command, which had been set up in response to the COVID crisis. The use of the grass area was required after serious concerns were raised about traffic backing up of onto the A4 when vehicles unable to park in the main car park at peak times. This concern was raised by the COVID Centre Managers (NHS), the CCG, the Police and the

community volunteers (One Slough) who were managing the car park. As we see a decrease in the need for the area in question, an order has been put in place to resurrect bollards to prevent parking there.

- 5.3 Other options for parking were investigated and the Parks Team was consulted before the decision to use the grass area was agreed as the only viable option. The initial users for the car park were the elderly and we have seen a return of this for booster jabs.
- 5.4 On the whole, park users have been very understanding. The use of the car park space has been sensitively managed by One Slough volunteers supported by Council Officers as and when required. Provision has now also been secured for the use of Montem car park to act as an over flow car park and a place for staff and volunteers to be able to park reducing the burden on spaces in the park car park.
- 5.5 Remedial works have been agreed and will be undertaken by the DSO and paid for by Health / CCG.
- 5.6 Work relating to COVID was consistently fed back to Members last year when the car park became used for the Vaccination centre. Not bringing this to the attention of Trustees was a genuine oversight at a time when the priority focus was on keeping our residents safe.
- 5.7 Given the circumstances, the need to get people vaccinated had to take priority especially when at the time Slough had one of the highest rates of COVID in the country. Park users have been able to access the car park when the activity centre is not in use or during quiet periods. As you will be aware we are seeing a spike in COVID cases and the need to prioritise booster jabs is paramount.
- 5.8 As of the beginning of November, concern has been raised by health colleagues about the increase of traffic on the A4 as a result of an increased demand at the Centre and the Council reintroducing enforcement on the bus lane on the A4. Enforcement had been suspended during the peak usage of the vaccination centre, in order to avoid cars backing out along the bath road as car parks were full. The suspension was lifted in October 2021.
- 5.9 In early November Health colleagues have informed the Council of another peak usage of the centre, which is causing back up of traffic on the A4. Health Colleagues have requested a suspension of enforcement on the bus lane. This is being discussed between the Council and Health
- 5.10 If there is a need to re-lay matting on the grassed area where parking is taking place, then this will only be undertaken if the cost is met by Health Authorities. All costs for remedial work will be paid for by Health Authorities, however, we may need to revisit the timescale for these works. Works were originally planned for November 2021 alongside reintroducing bollards to avoid cars from parking on the grass. However, timescale will need to be reconsidered due to the high usage at the vaccination.
- 5.11 As we are now entering the winter period again park usage will be at its lowest during the year and the situation can be reviewed in the build up to Spring.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

This matter has not been considered by other Committees.

7. **Conclusion**

7.1 Given the national rise in COVID cases, the health of our residents needs to be our continued priority and the easy access for residents to receive their vaccinations and boosters.

7.2 As the full cost of remedial works will be met through Health, there is no financial implications on the Trust

8. **Background Papers**

None