**Faringdon Town Clerk**

**CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT IN THE VALE AND FARINGDON**

The Department for Transport (DfT) wishes to make parking regulations easier for the public to understand with both on and off-street parking treated in the same way. It is the stated intention of the DfT that civil parking enforcement (CPE) should be implemented by all highway authorities.

The vast majority of local authorities have done so, some 326 have with only 23 have not and within Oxfordshire CPE has been introduced in West Oxfordshire and Oxford City. OCC would prefer to make on single application to DfT for CPE, including Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils.

The start-up costs are estimated at £250,000 per council, based on 2010 figures. CPE should be self-financing, however, in practice very few rural authorities manage to break even. In 2012/13 WODC expenditure was £231,000 and income was £144,000, so it suffered a loss of £87,000 and the costs of running CPE in the Vale are quite difficult to estimate. TUPE would apply to existing VWHDC staff to either OCC or a town council. Also responses to ‘how big a problem is illegal parking?’ varied significantly from across the Vale. So whilst Police are directed away from enforcement of routine non-moving traffic offence, it is estimated that CPE would run at a deficit based on experience elsewhere.

A survey of residents did not see it as a problem in either Abingdon or Wantage, and there are only a few streets in Faringdon where inconsiderate residents and traders park in contravention of published highway regulations. If these residents obeyed the rules and/or used the two hours free parking in the Vale CP, then the problem would be reduced. To change the system so as to enforce against the few would cost all taxpayers a lot of money, so I suggest a bit of thought and consideration by the culprits would the best remedy.

Roger Cox

District Councillor

11 April 2016