

**BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FROM:** Head of Contract and Asset Management

**REPORT NUMBER:** **H232**

**TO:** STRATEGY COMMITTEE

**DATE OF MEETING:** 7 April 2009

**NORTH STREET CAR PARK, SUDBURY**

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek approval to provide designated car parking spaces for the Siam Surgery.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That four additional car parking spaces be designated specifically for the use of Siam Surgery.
- 2.2 That the Council's Off Street Parking Places Order (2008) for its short stay car parks be amended accordingly.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications. The proposed changes in markings, and the required amendments to the Parking Order, can be met from existing car parking budgets.

4. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Seriousness or Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>
Patients have their consultations interrupted because nurses and doctors need to move their vehicles at the end of a 3-hour short stay period.	Certain	Limited in terms of medical risk in most instances, but serious in terms of the frustration created.	Create an agreed number of spaces to avoid this problem.

5. **KEY INFORMATION**

- 5.1 The new ticket machines were introduced in Sudbury in August 2008. These machines made the enforcement regime far more efficient. Although new Parking Orders were also introduced, the restrictions in the North Street Car Park remained the same i.e. short stay parking limited to 3 hours.

- 5.2 Several complaints/requests were received from the Siam Surgery from August onwards effectively indicating that medical staff were being interrupted in their work with patients by the need to move their vehicles, and when they did not they were regularly receiving Parking Notices, which they were unable to appeal against.
- 5.3 These requests were turned down on the basis that the restrictions in North Street car park had not changed.
- 5.4 In January 2009 a petition was received with approximately 1000 signatures supporting the earlier requests for dedicated parking for the surgery. This was reported to your committee on the 12 February and to Full Council on the 24 February. Your committee requested that officers report to this meeting on the car parking issues raised by the petitioners.
- 5.5 Subsequently officers have held a meeting with the Practice Manager and the Doctors in order to fully examine their problems, and then to consider whether there is a solution.
- 5.6 The points discussed can be summarised as follows:
- The surgery is open from 8.30am to 8.00pm on weekdays, with many of the staff working shifts within this period.
  - They currently use 5 parking spaces on their own land, and have one dedicated space in front of surgery in the Council's car park.
  - There are 35 people working in and from the surgery to varying degrees – 5 GP's, 5 Practice Nurses, 5 Counsellors, 1 Midwife and 2 Paramedics all supported by 17 administrative staff. Of these 27 are based at the surgery all the time.
  - There are a considerable amount of vehicle movements associated with these workers throughout their working day – GP's and nurses on house calls and emergencies, counsellors for appointments, collection by staff of medications/drugs from other locations, movement of medical equipment and paramedic visits.
  - The problems are:
    - a) Doctors and nurses often have to leave patients to move their vehicles when their 3 hour parking period expires. Alternatively they receive Parking Notices.
    - b) Parking spaces are not always available for GP's, nurses, paramedics and others returning from external visits during the day.
    - c) Their existing spaces are fronted by a loading bay, so they are often blocked in or cannot return as their spaces are obstructed by lorries/vans.
- 5.7 Having given due consideration to the above, and taking into account the fact that although the restrictions on the car park have not changed the increased enforcement regime has amplified their problems, there is a case from providing some additional dedicated spaces for the surgery.

- 5.8 This case should be based purely on reducing any potential impact on patients, and should not take into account any issues around parking for administrative staff and patients.
- 5.9 On this basis alterations to the arrangement of spaces in the area in front of the surgery can create five dedicated spaces within the Council's car park. This will involve the relocation of one disabled space, and the loss of four spaces to the general public.
- 5.10 These spaces should be for doctors and nurses only, and their use will need to be managed within the practice. This proposal has been discussed with the Practice Manager, and has been warmly welcomed. They consider that they can, with appropriate internal arrangements, resolve their current problems.
- 5.11 Based on the increased turnover of vehicles due to the new enforcement regime the impact on the public is not considered sufficient to outweigh the problems being experienced by medical staff.
- 5.12 It is proposed therefore that the five spaces shown hatched on the attached plan are marked in yellow and signed as being available for medical staff only. These incorporate the one space already available.
- 5.13 The Parking Order covering these spaces will need to be amended to incorporate this change.

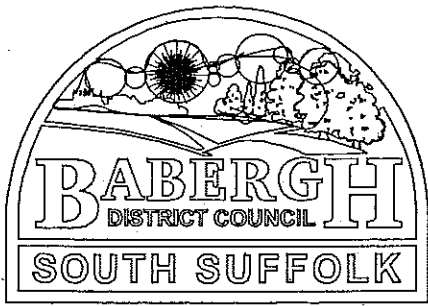
6. **APPENDICES AND BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

NONE

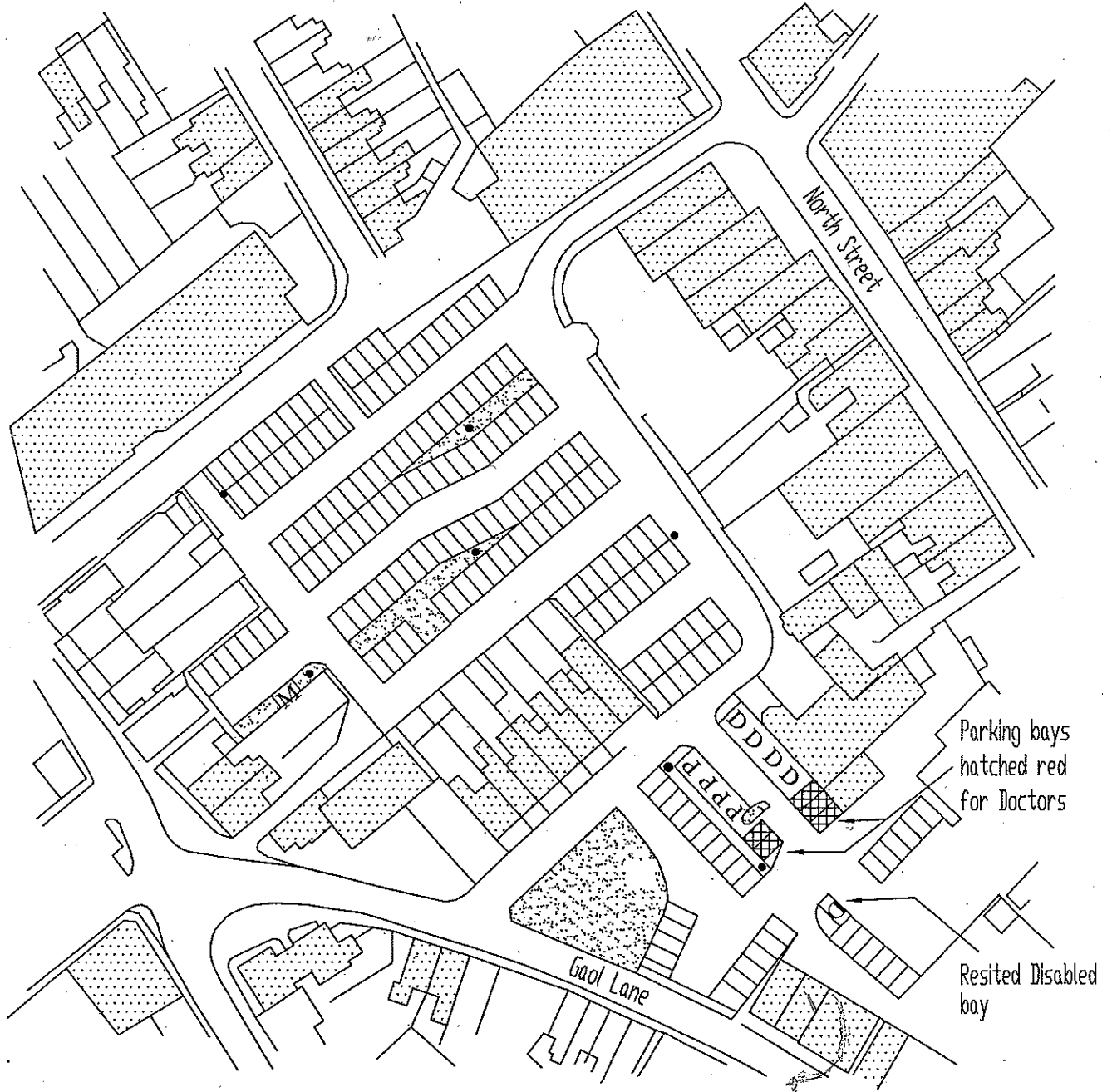
**CONTACT:** Ryan Jones

Head of Contract and Asset Management

**E-MAIL:** ryan.jones@babergh.gov.uk



Babergh District Council  
 Contract and Asset Management  
 Corks Lane  
 Hadleigh  
 Suffolk IP7 6SJ



- Legend  
 D - Disabled bay  
 P - Parent & child bay  
 M - Motor cycle bay

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SCALE N.T.S.	DATE March 2009	DRAWING NUMBER TS/ENG - 7011T	REVISION	DRAWN A. Baker	CHECKED
LOCATION Sudbury			TITLE North Street Car Park Plan showing revised parking bays		