

COUNCIL MEETING 6 OCTOBER 2010
WCC PROPOSED CHANGES TO SUNDAY PARKING TIME LIMITS

I will concentrate on some issues raised by members at the last Strategy and Policy Committee, as you are well aware of my overall views. Also I have purposely confined my comments to the Thorndon area as it is one I know well on Sundays, whereas I do not know if they could also apply to other parts of the proposed area.

1. there are normally no car parking pressures on a Sunday in the Thorndon area. This must be obvious to all. BUT this pressure is given as a reason for the policy to apply to that area.
2. the need to retain vibrancy in the city's shopping area was raised at the meeting. Yet you can hardly call Thorndon a vibrant shopping area on Sundays that needs the turn-around of parked cars to retain that vibrancy.
3. the need for consistency in applying the policy to the 'central area' zone was another aspect raised. You have only to look at DP Map 18 to see that some parts of the 'central area' zone are not included in this policy, eg parts of Hill and Hawkestone Streets. So it would appear that adopting the proposal could be regarded as an 'inconsistent' action. Anyway, there are so many varying parking rules throughout Wellington, that the public have already to carefully examine all signage.
4. there were references made at the SPC meeting that excluding Thorndon would appear to give 'one group' (ie the cathedral) a privilege. I merely used the cathedral as an example. What about Sunday activities at Old St Pauls, National Library (when reopened), Thorndon swimming pool, Parliament. The implications of the proposal could obviously be wider than the cathedral.
5. the proposal appears to go well beyond the basic request from retailers in the core central area. It would be logical to exclude Thorndon at this stage. If any problems were to develop, they could be dealt with then. But once Council has paid for new signage, one can hardly see it changing back again.
6. I tried to get the reporter from the DomPost (who wrote an article after the last SPC meeting) to print the map showing the extent of the parking changes for the public to see but this did not occur. As I have mentioned before, I do not think many people are aware of the boundaries to apply to this proposal and expect it to be limited to the central core shopping area – not to Thorndon.
7. An amendment was proposed at the SPC meeting to exclude Thorndon streets from the proposed policy but unfortunately was lost by one vote (7-8). I ask those voting against such an amendment to reconsider their position. Any new policy should only be applied where it is necessary and warranted. The logic of the reasoning behind the existing proposal is "tortuous".

Frances Lee.

Council
Tabled information
Reference 151/10C(A)