

Expansion of parking at Thetford Railway Station
Report of Robert Campbell

Summary

Preliminary work has been undertaken to establish the feasibility of expanding car parking provision at Thetford Railway Station

Recommendations

- (i) That the board approve further work to establish whether expansion of car parking at Thetford Railway Station is likely to be feasible to achieve.

1. Introduction

Thetford Station currently has parking for 35 cars, including 2 disabled bays. The parking is managed by NCP on behalf of Greater Anglia Trains and is available to users on a chargeable basis.

Additional parking is provided for taxis and there is one 20 minute short stay slot designed for drop off and pick up.

2. Previous discussions

The board has previously discussed the possibility of providing additional parking by utilising some of the existing allotment space on the other side of the tracks from the current parking. The idea was based on Thetford Town Council releasing some of the allotment land providing that a similar sized plot be made available for allotment use from either District or County land ownership.

The need for additional parking is based on likely increased demand from residents of the new Kingsfleet housing development which has now started construction of the first phase.

3. Discussions with Greater Anglia

An initial informal discussion has taken place with Greater Anglia to establish whether they would be supportive of enlarging car parking at Thetford Station. The discussions confirmed the following:-

- Greater Anglia accepts that increased demand for car parking is a likely consequence of the Kingsfleet housing development.
- Greater Anglia is supportive of the idea to increase car parking.

- Greater Anglia would not purchase land for car parking. The freehold for car parking land is held by Network Rail and then leased to Greater Anglia who would build and manage (via NCP) the additional car parking.
- It was not thought likely that Network Rail would be willing to pay for the land – but this needs to be further investigated.

4. Road access to the allotment land

Officers have identified two potential road access points to the allotment land. One potential access is off Station Lane and a second potential access is off Croxton Road. This provides potential access at either the western or eastern end of the current allotment land. The western access is closest the station platforms.

A full survey would be required to establish whether either of these would be practical and what level of road improvement would be required.

5. Amount of allotment land which would be required

The allotment site currently has around 100 plots.

As a rough initial estimate, provision of an additional 50 car parking spaces is likely to require no more than 10% of the current plots.

6. Next steps

Suggested next steps are:-

Meet with Greater Anglia to discuss the scheme in detail. Establish how many additional parking spaces would be desirable to meet predicted future need.

Establish whether there are alternative potential sites in public ownership to replace the allotment space which would be lost to car parking.

If the scheme looks to be feasible, come back to the board with a further update seeking permission to proceed to prepare a costed proposal.

7. Contribution to Board Objectives

To revitalise Thetford town centre and improve connectivity with public and other forms of transport.

8. Recommendations

- (i) That the board approve further work to establish whether expansion of car parking at Thetford Railway Station is likely to be feasible to achieve.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

Name	Telephone Number	Email Address
Robert Campbell	01362 656808	robert.campbell@breckland.gov.uk

Appendices

None.

Background Documents

None.