Key Decision Report

Summary

This report sets out the current situation with regard to the car park area in Queen Mary’s Park near to the entrance with Kenny Drive which is currently closed, and asks members to consider if this arrangement should be changed.

Recommendations

I recommend the Committee to:

Continue to keep the car park locked as there are no resources available to provide for the unlocking and locking of the gate, and also to minimise the potential risk of fly tipping and traveller incursions in the car park as a result of it being open.

1. Background

1.1 A previous report to the Carshalton and Clockhouse Area Committee on 18 September 2002 outlined the future plans for the management of the land on the former Queen Mary’s hospital site that was transferring to the Council under a section 106 agreement.

1.2 Provision of the refurbished car park was part of the original Section 106 agreement for the site and the intention was that it would service a pavilion. It was later agreed that the pavilion was not required and in its place an additional sum was added to the Section 106 amount. However the car park was constructed as originally agreed.

1.3 At the time of writing the 2002 report the housing development around what is now Queen Mary’s Park was still ongoing, and officers were unsure of the amount of use the park would have, or what the impact was likely to be on the surrounding population. This is especially true of the area around the entrance at the end of Kenny Drive.

1.4 It was agreed with ward councillors at the time that the car park should be kept closed as the park is intended to serve local needs and we should not encourage people to drive there. There was also considered to be a risk of travellers using the car park or fly tipping occurring as there had previously been recycling bins in the old car park.
2. **Issues**

2.1 Officers are aware of the problems associated with an open car park that is behind houses in a quiet park and that might attract problems such as fly tipping, and car based anti social behaviour. But there is an equal awareness that if the number of parks users increases, then residents living in Kenny Drive may experience access problems due to an increase in visitor parking.

2.2 In the several years since the park came into use we have had few request for parking.

2.3 If the car park required opening in the mornings and locking in the evenings in line with the traditional approach, then this work would be undertaken on behalf of the Council by Civic Security, which is managed by the Saffer Sutton Partnership.

2.4 The Parks Service does not have the resources to take on the locking and unlocking of this site.

2.5 The Civic Security manager has explained that the team carrying out the locking and unlocking of some of the borough’s park sites have two part time officers, who work four hours in the evening and are already fully stretched. They would not therefore be able to accommodate the opening and closing of this site within their current schedule.

3. **Financial Implications**

3.1 There are no financial implications associated with the continuation of the current arrangement.

4. **Influence of the Council’s Core Values**

5. **Equality Impact Assessment**

6. **Background Papers**