

## Technical Note

### Mortimer Station Car Park Parking Demand

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Project: Mortimer Station Car Park

SMA Ref: 6074

Subject: Car Parking Demand

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#### Introduction

- 1.1. At the West Berkshire Council's Planning Committee on 5 August 2020 the planning application for a new car park at Mortimer station was considered. The application was deferred until further information was provided.
- 1.2. Councillors requested that justification on the need for 150 additional car parking spaces at the proposed car park at Mortimer Railway Station was required.
- 1.3. This Technical Note reviews the car parking survey undertaken in July 2017 at the existing station car park and together with the questionnaire submitted to only a third of the catchment area of Mortimer station as part of the Statement of Community Involvement, sets out a case for an additional car park of 150 spaces.
- 1.4. It must also be recognised that for potential rail users it is important before deciding to take the train that there is sufficient parking available at a station, without such confidence, drivers are most likely to drive to an alternative rail station where parking can be guaranteed or alternatively not use the train, instead driving to their place of destination. This is even more relevant in locations such as Mortimer where the station is located away from the village and the majority of the catchment population. This is not sustainable and is against national policy of trying to encourage use of public transport.

#### Existing Station Car Park and surrounding local roads

- 1.5. The existing station car park has capacity for 53 spaces.
- 1.6. A car parking beat survey undertaken at the existing Mortimer Station Car Park on Tuesday 4 July 2017 demonstrated that between the hours of 0930hrs and 1630hrs the car park is almost at capacity with only 3 or 4 spaces available.

- 1.7. At the same time the car parking survey was undertaken at the station a parking survey of 'The Street' was also undertaken which confirmed that circa 20 cars were parked between the hours of 0900hrs and 1700hrs.

### **Community Involvement**

- 1.8. In 2018 as part of the Statement of Community Involvement a questionnaire was sent out to a third of the catchment population of Mortimer Station.
- 1.9. 377 people (80%) responded to the question that they would use the station if more parking was increased and 80 people responded to say they did not use the station because it lacked parking.
- 1.10. 85 people stated that they used the station on a daily basis
- 1.11. However, if the questionnaire had been extended to include the whole catchment area of the station such as the villages of Silchester, Burghfield Common / Burghfield, Sulhampstead, Grazeley and Beech Hill it is not unreasonable to assume that the figure of 80 people not using the station could be at least have been 3 times that figure. Therefore  $80 \times 3 = 240$  it is estimated that 240 people would potentially use the station if more parking was available.
- 1.12. Recognising that not all the people would use the station at any one time, using the data available 53 parking spaces against 85 current people using the station on a daily basis  $53/85 = 0.62$
- 1.13. If we apply the above factor to the projected 240 people ( $240 \times 0.62 = 149$ ) and also take into account those cars that are parking on-street (20), there is a need for 169 spaces.
- 1.14. A new car park of 150 spaces + the existing 53 space car park would provide a total of 203 spaces.
- 1.15. Furthermore, no assessment has been made of the potential demand for the station use from the 110 houses currently being built in the centre of Mortimer as part of the MOR006 NDP allocation, the approved Travel Plan for that site is targeting a 9% shift from using the car to the train. On that basis, there is potential for a demand for a further 10 spaces (179).
- 1.16. Great Western Rail has also advised that over the last 15 years passenger journey from Mortimer has increased by just 3% as opposed to 95% increase in passenger numbers across the industry. This difference is due to inadequate parking provision at Mortimer station.
- 1.17. There is sufficient evidence therefore for a 150 space car park at Mortimer Station.