

# **West Wiltshire District Council**

## **Cabinet**

**15 December 2004**

### **Review of Car Parking Charges**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

To report back the results of consultation and make the car parking order.

#### **2. Background**

Cabinet decided on 3 November to consult on the proposed increase in car parking charges. The report is attached as an appendix with the pay and display tariff amended.

- Public consultation was carried out through the press
- Town Council were consulted through a joint meeting and individual meetings with two of them
- Parish Councils were written to
- Chambers of Commerce were individually written to and through their Wessex Association additional communications were sent to members of the West Wilts Economic Partnership.

#### ***Consultation***

- Sought views between the preference is for two hours free parking from 8am until 10am in all car parks, or as a second option one hour free parking, in a selected car park in each of the five towns, at any time of the day.
- Asked how frequently car parks were used, for how long and for what purpose.
- How the proposed new charges and free period would affect their use of car parks.
- Which area people lived in, their age and sex.
- Any other comments.

#### **3. Key Issues**

The main issues raised by consultees were as follows

#### ***Town Councils consultation***

Bradford on Avon: Supported free until 10.00 am

Suggested 40p per hour through to £3.20 all day

Opposed no return on the same day

Suggested maximum residents parking of £200

Agrees index linking of charges

Melksham

Require more information

Trowbridge

No major objections or preference

Concern about charges in Stallards, Bradford Road

	Would like a free period in Court Street while St Stephens is not available through redevelopment.
Warminster	Favoured a free hour in selected car parks May seek to negotiate further free parking following consideration by their Finance & Resources Committee in January 2005
Westbury	Car Parks Working Group has resolved to negotiate new agreement to maintain two hours free parking within the Town. Opposes "No Return" on same day Season Ticket and Resident permit holders be prohibited from Parking in free spaces Objects to the level of increased charge for Season and Residents Permits.
Wessex Chambers of Commerce	Expressed no clear preference of which option for a free period. Expressed concern that charges will have an impact on retail business in competition with other areas. Expressed concern of severe effect on car commuters (with limited public transport)
Parish Councils	Three replies received two preferred free until 10.00am, all thought free parking difficult to monitor.

### ***Public Consultation***

217 replies were received from comprehensive newspaper coverage of the District. Clearly those feeling most strongly are those likely to reply and the number of replies is therefore indicative of the strength of feeling.

The overwhelming preference nearly 6 to 1 was for free hour in selected car parks rather than free to 10.00am. The majority varied however from 2 to 1 in Westbury up to 9 to 1 in Bradford on Avon. The pattern of parking of responders also varied being more people staying for up to one hour Melksham and Westbury, about even between one and two hours in Bradford and Warminster and most for two hours or more in Trowbridge.

### ***Of the comments***

36 said they would shop elsewhere, up to 25 miles away.  
30 said they would use car parks and therefore shops less  
29 said there would not change their habits.  
23 said they would park where it is free i.e. supermarkets/on street  
16 said a free hour would encourage them to use the town more  
12 said they would limit their parking to the free area  
11 commented on the cost to workers especially part timers  
9 raised issues over lack of enforcement for on street parking  
8 said they would park for a shorter time  
6 said they would walk

3 commented on the cost to pensioners.

### ***Financial Implications***

The options recommended are considered not to have a significant impact on income as the higher revenue from the free hour in selected car park option is estimated to balance the reductions from the other concessions.

### ***Legal Implications***

The Order must be made and advertised at least 28 days before the Cabinet meeting on 9 February and representations on it considered at that meeting before it can be confirmed.

## **4. Options**

The following are the recommendations on which consultation was based together with any change recommended:

***Previous recommendation:*** A pay and display tariff of 40p one hour, 80p two hours £1.60 four hours £3.50 all day. (the tariffs shown here were set at 3<sup>rd</sup> November Cabinet meeting and registered in the Minutes of that meeting)

### ***No Change from previous recommendation***

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***Previous recommendation:*** Annual season tickets £600, with shorter whole month periods pro rata plus £5, existing residents tickets £300p.a.

***Following consultation amend to :*** Annual Season tickets £450, six months £250. Existing residents tickets £200, £150 where no charges are levied in a short term car park.

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***Previous recommendation:*** Excess Charge Notices remaining at £60 reduced to £30 if paid within 14 days, but no provision be included for a £4 accidental overstay charge.

### ***No Change from previous recommendation***

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***Previous recommendation:*** Charging hours amended to 08.00 to 18.00 Monday-Saturday.

### ***No Change from previous recommendation.***

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### ***Previous recommendation:***

- For car parks with a maximum stay of four hours or less to prohibiting return on the same day.
- For all car parks with a free or low charge period prohibiting purchase of a ticket including that period more than once on the same day.

***Following consultation amend to:*** For car parks with a maximum stay of four hours or less, or a free hour at any time of day, no return within four hours.

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**Previous recommendation:** Restricting parking to private or private/light goods vehicles with a maximum gross weight of 3,500 kg which fit wholly within a marked parking bay other than a bay marked out for a coach, bus, or heavy goods vehicle. A coach, bus, or heavy goods vehicle may park in specifically designated space.

**No Change from previous recommendation**

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**Previous recommendation:** Introducing charging in the car parks in Weymouth Street, Warminster, and Stallards, Bradford Road Trowbridge.

**Following consultation amend to:** Stallards, Bradford Road Trowbridge. Free for two hours maximum except for holders of Residents Permits.

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**Previous recommendation:** Consideration of an option for a free hour in the selected car parks listed in Appendix 2 of the report.

**Following consultation amend to:** Free 0800-10.00 for car parks in Bradford on Avon, elsewhere a free hour in the selected car parks in schedule 2 of the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2004 Cabinet report.

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The draft order will provide for:

- Limiting the period of stay in 'free parking areas' to 2 hours unless there are overriding practical issues that prevent such an approach in specific locations
- exemptions from charging in the event of agreement with town council for additional free parking periods.

## 5. Key Decision

Statement of Reason for key decision	The options selected are consistent with the authority's objectives and takes into account the results of consultation.
Options considered and rejected	Those that would reduce revenue to an unacceptable extent or inconsistent with consultation results.
Date of Implementation	1 April 2005

## 6. Background Papers

Responses to consultation and car park charge review files  
File location: F30

## 7. Recommendations

1. That a Car Park Order which incorporates the suggested amendments is made.
2. With effect from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, and annually thereafter, car parking charges to automatically increased by the rate of inflation. Increased Pay and display charges to be rounded upwards to the nearest 10p and Season and residents tickets to the nearest £1.
3. That Cabinet retains the right to increase charges above inflation.

**Appendices:**

1. Cabinet Report 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2004
2. Draft Car Park Order 2005

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Date of preparation of report: 1 December 2004