

## Responses to Questions from Warminster Town Council regarding Car Parking Charges

1) Clarification on the number of car parking spaces available for reduced charges

The proposal is as follows; the existing parking spaces in the Central, Western, Chinns and Weymouth car parks, currently free, would remain free for the first hour on payment of £72,000 by the Town Council.

The figures quoted in the Town Council's letter are incorrect; there are approximately 250 free spaces in Warminster compared to approximately 125 free spaces in Westbury. The difference is double the figure of 63 spaces quoted in the letter.

2) Why is the cost so high for Warminster compared to Westbury?

The revised payments for Warminster and Westbury are based on the original figures negotiated between the former district council and the Town Councils rather than the estimated loss of income to this authority which is substantially higher. As the full cost of not charging is not being recovered an alternative basis for setting the fee is needed. As the original fee was accepted by both Town Councils after negotiation with the former district council this is considered the most appropriate platform for the revised fee.

3) Why the discrepancy and the inequality with other towns?

As previously indicated there is great variation in the charging arrangements inherited from the district councils. These variations and the decisions that some of the car parks would be free from a parking charge would have been made by the districts taking into consideration individual circumstances.

In the towns in the former West Wiltshire district there is a mix of charged and free parking in the car parks but Warminster and Westbury are the only towns where the former district council negotiated a fee for maintaining free parking.

4) Some information would be helpful regarding the costs supplied which are average costs based on an average size car park of 150 spaces. Non domestic rate £9,440 - why are business rates chargeable on open tarmac with white lines painted on it?

The rules on the setting of Non Domestic Rates are a matter for central government. Monies from these rates go straight to Central Government, Wiltshire Council does not receive the monies collected.

5) Water electric and sewerage, £465. The electricity could be identified but not the water and sewerage costs.

The costs of operating and enforcement of the car parks given to the Town Council are based on an average size car park across the authority pro rata. This relates to the total cost to the authority. The utility bills relate to the costs of operating equipment and buildings.

6) Asset repair cost £2,782 and depreciation £15,994 - exactly what asset was there to deprecate and what costs have been spent on maintenance? Can the depreciation

costs be further explained? Unless the car park had been purchased for hard cash and is registered as a purchased asset then it is questionable how depreciation is justifiable. With the exception of equipment we are talking about land assets which it is fair to assume are inflationary over time and reflect an increasing not decreasing asset.

The financial regulations require that depreciation is provided for on all assets with a determinable finite life by allocating the value of the asset in the Balance Sheet. Funds are expended on maintenance, for example of ticket machines, lighting, signing, lining, landscaping and surface of car parks.

7) Miscellaneous costs £2,069 - what where these?

Examples of miscellaneous costs include training and recruitment, making and implementation of parking orders, processing of concessions and waivers.

8) £16,379 spent on staff costs which includes vehicles, communication equipment, uniforms and paperwork costs etc, how many days per week or hours per week does this apply to for the work carried out in Warminster car parks?

The staff costs etc are for a typical car park calculated by the pro rata of the total cost to this authority.

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Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport  
May 2010