

Decision Record – Consultation by Warwick District Council on Changes to the Fees and Charges for Off Street Car Parking

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision: *name and portfolio*

Councillor Peter Butlin – Portfolio Holder for Transport & Highways

Date of Decision: (NOT BEFORE 25 November 2011)

28.11.11

Decision taken

I, as Portfolio Holder for Transport and Highways, agree that Warwickshire County Council supports Warwick District Council's proposed fees and charges for off-street car parking "*The Warwick District Council Off-Street Parking Places Order 2012*" as set out in the appendix to this decision.

Reasons for Decisions

The reasons for the proposed fees and charges are set out in Appendix B of the report to the District Council's Executive Committee, and set out below:

For 2012-13 car park income levels are forecast to fall by 6.7%. This is due to the continuing effects of the recession, Severn Trent sewer replacements and the on-going impact of competition from on-street parking charges, where short stay charges are comparable to those in the Council car parks.

The effect of this fall means that car parking will be £210,000 short of its target income for 2012-13. Due to the economic downturn the revised estimate for 2011-2012 is £205,000 (8.5%) less than the original estimate.

The Head of Neighbourhood Services feels that most charges should stay the same, with the only major change being the introduction of 24 hour parking in order to retain and encourage usage.

Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (set out below):

In assessing the options for changes to off-street charges officers have taken into account the current and past performance in each town, the external factors which are or will play a part in the performance in each town over the next 12 months and the feedback gained from ongoing discussions with both the Town Centre Partnerships and the Town Councils.

Over the last four years WDC has sought to increase off-street income by increasing the level of charges made. In many cases individual charges have increased by 30%, however, off-street income overall has risen by just 3%.

The proposals are:

Kenilworth – to keep existing charges for all tariff bands and season tickets at their current levels but :-

- a) introduce charging in Kenilworth across 24 hours a day via a flat rate fee of 50p to cover the current free period between 6pm to 8am Monday to Saturday.
- b) reintroduce Sunday charges (removed in 2007) between 8am on Sunday to 8am on Monday at a 50p flat rate fee.
This would generate £11,000.

Leamington Spa -To keep existing charges for all tariff bands and season tickets at their current levels but implement the proposals set out below :-

- a) introduce 24/7 charging between in all surface car parks in Leamington except Adelaide Bridge based on a flat rate fee of 50p between 8pm and 8am and in Leamington Old Town between 6pm and 8am. Existing overnight charging in multi-storey car parks remain unchanged. The introduction of charging between 8pm and 8am allows the provision of a service improvement for those who need to leave a car in a car park for more than 24 hours. Examples of this are for people staying at a hotel with no / restricted parking and for people who use the railway station.
- b) remove 15 minute stay period in Bedford Street car park and all car parks in Old Town and replace with at a charge of 20p for the half hour stay. This is aimed at increasing shoppers dwell time and has been successful in Kenilworth. These charges would be in line with the old on-street charges for a half hour. Given the impact of the increase that the half hour on-street charge has had on on-street usage officers believe this option should initially be introduced where there is spare capacity in car parks so to monitor the impact and determine if this should be extended to the other car parks.
- c) improve the service we offer and increase income by providing “Parent and Child” parking provision on the lower floor of Covent Garden Multi-storey car park. There is high demand for this service in Royal Priors. This service is being provided on the lower floor in Covent Garden as part of the car park upgrade funded from S106 money

The three proposals (a-c above) are anticipated to raise £20,000.

Warwick - To keep existing charges for all tariff bands and season tickets at their current levels but implement the two proposals set out below :-

- a) introduce 24/7 charging in all car parks in Warwick which charge Monday - Sunday. The existing "free" period at St Mary's Lands Area 3 will remain. The introduction of 24/7 charging allows the provision of a service improvement to those who need to leave a car in a car park for more than 24 hours. Examples of this are for people staying at a hotel with no / restricted parking and those people who are using the railway station.
- b) remove the 15 minute stay period in New Street and Westgate car parks and replace with a 20p charge for the half hour stay. This option was proposed by Warwick Chamber of Trade in 2010 but not taken up as in order to look at the impact of the removal of the 15 minute free across the District. These charges would be in line with the old on-street charges for a half hour.

These options are anticipated to raise £12,000.

Financial and Legal Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from supporting WDC's proposals. The County Council will, however, need to take into account the off-street parking charges when reviewing its on-street charges to ensure that the charging structure encourages the use of off-street car parks.

Report Author:	Katrina Pedlar
Head of Service:	Graeme Fitton
Strategic Director:	Monica Fogarty
Portfolio Holder	Peter Butlin (Highways and Transport)

Checklist

Urgent matter: yes/no*

No

Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)

No

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework

No

List of Reports considered [please attach or forward a copy]

Report (text included above).

List of Background Papers [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

None

Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.

For Comment: Cllr P Butlin (decision maker).

Legal: Ian Marriott

Finance: Liz Firmstone

Local Members: (Warwick District Area)

Cllrs Bould, Boad, Naylor, Whitehouse, Cllr Caborn, Kirton, Compton, Cockburn, Shilton, Doody, Goode, Davis, Ashford, Hopkinson, Warner

Appendix

Portfolio Holder, Transport and Highways Decision Notice

Consultation by Warwick District Council on Changes to the Fees and Charges for Off Street Car Parking

THE WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES ORDER 2012

1. Notice is hereby given that Warwick District Council proposes to make an order under the powers contained in the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 (as amended) and Part 6 of The Traffic Management Act 2004.

2. **The general effect of the order is-**

(a) Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth Car Parks - Bath Place, Bedford Street, Chandos Street, Court Street, Covent Garden Surface, Packing ton Place, Rosefield Street, Castle Lane, Linen Street, New Street, Priory Road, St Marys Lands Area 2, St Marys Lands Area 4, St Nicholas Park, The Butts, Westgate, West Rock, Abbey End and Square West

To introduce a new charge as follows;	From	To
Overnight Charge	-	£0.50

(b) Leamington Car Parks – Short Stay
Bedford Street Car Parks.

To introduce new charges as follows:	From	To
Up to Thirty minutes	-	£0.20
To remove the following tariff band; Fifteen minutes.		

(c) Warwick Car Parks - Limited Stay
New Street & Westgate

To introduce new charges as follows:	From	To
Up to Thirty minutes	-	£0.20
To remove the following tariff band; Fifteen minutes.		

(d) Leamington Old Town Car Parks - Long Stay
Bath Place, Packington Place and Court Street Car Parks

To introduce new charges as follows:	From	To
Up to Thirty minutes	-	£0.20
To remove the following tariff band;		

Fifteen minutes.

- (e) Leamington Car Parks
Old Church Parking Area, Spencer Street
To introduce a parking permit scheme to the parking area in front of the Old Church, Spencer Street.
 - (f) Season Tickets – All Types
No increase to existing charges
 - (g) Penalty Charges - All Car Parks
The penalty charge, reduced penalty charge, or Charge Certificate shall be in the sum as indicated in Band 2 of Table 1, of the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (Guidelines on Levels of charges) (England) Order 2007.
3. In all other respects the provisions of the present orders will apply, including exemptions from payment for disabled drivers displaying a disabled badge and where necessary a time clock on all car parks.
 4. Copies of the Order together with a statement of this Council's reasons for proposals can be inspected at the offices at Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Leamington Spa, the Warwick District Council One Stop Shop at, Warwick Shire Hall and at Warwickshire Direct - Kenilworth, Smalley Place, Kenilworth, during normal office hours.
 5. Any objections to the proposals contained in the Draft Order should be made in writing stating the grounds thereof and addressed to me at the address below no later than the 5th December 2011. For further information please contact Mr I Coker on (01926) 456227.

Warwick District
Council
Neighbourhood
Services
P O Box 2177
Riverside House
Milverton Hill
Royal Leamington Spa
CV32 5QG

IAN COKER
HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES