

Portfolio Holder Decision

Warwick District Council Off-street Parking Order 2022

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
Date of decision	18 February 2022
	Signed

1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning consents to the making of the Warwick District Council Off-Street Parking Order 2022 by Warwick District Council.

2. Reasons for decisions

Warwick District Council (WDC) is proposing to introduce changes to its Off-Street Parking Order which will result in amendments to car parks operated and maintained by WDC.

The consent of the County Council is required under section 39 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. By virtue of section 32 of that Act, off-street car parks may be provided for the purpose of relieving or preventing congestion of traffic.

In deciding whether or not to exercise its power to consent (or to withhold consent), the Council is required to have regard to the matters set out in section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Section 122(1) requires the Council to exercise the functions conferred on it (so far as practicable having regard to the matters specified in section 122(2)) to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians), and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

The matters to which the Council must have regard under section 122(2) are:-

- The desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises
- The effect on the amenities of any locality affected and the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run
- The national air quality strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1995
- The importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the

safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles

- And any other matters appearing to the Council to be relevant.

3. Background information

WDC is proposing to make amendments to the existing parking order for the following reasons throughout all WDC controlled car parks:

- The introduction of electric vehicle charging bays in some car parks
- To introduce a virtual parking session capability and move away from paper tickets and permits
- To vary other car park charges including those for Special Events, release of vehicles, skip placement and admin charges associated with the issuing of certain permit types

The overnight permit hours of use will change to align with WDC's standard evening parking tariff hours, 18:00 – 08:00 Monday to Sunday inclusive, to allow availability of commuter parking in the mornings.

Appendix A contains the OSPO (Off Street Parking Order) Statement of Reasons.

Warwick area car parks

Myton Fields picnic area car park is to be restricted to the main field only and will be operational between 1st April and 1 November each year.

New St and West Gate car parks will see an increase to the permitted maximum stay from three to four hours to align with all other short stay car parks in the district.

Eight electric vehicle only parking bays are to be designated in both West Rock and Hampton Road car parks, for use only while charging. Payment for parking will be required.

Leamington Spa area car parks

Eight electric vehicle only parking bays are to be designated in both St Peters multi-storey car park and Chandos St car park, for use while charging only. Two electric vehicle only parking bays are to be relocated from Covent Garden multi-storey car park to Covent Garden surface car park. Payment for parking will be required.

St Peter's multi-storey car park will be changed from pay on foot to pay and display.

Maximum stay durations will be increased in St Peter's and Covent Garden multi-storey car parks to 72 hours to cater for Travelodge guests and other visitors to the area.

The provision of two hours free parking at Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre is to be restricted to one free session in a 24 hour period.

Season tickets will be introduced in Upper Grove Street car park at a cost of £390 per year or £57 per month.

Station Approach car park will be separated into two distinct parking areas. The surface car park is to be known as Station Approach car park and the roadway will become Station Approach lower road car park.

Kenilworth area car parks

Eight electric vehicle parking bays are to be designated in Abbey End surface car park, for use only while charging. Payment for parking will be required.

Special Event charging is to be introduced at Abbey Fields, Abbey End and Square West car parks at a cost of £7.

Comments

Electric Vehicles

The provision of electric vehicle charging points and associated parking bays is a welcome contribution to the need to provide additional charging infrastructure throughout Warwickshire, both on and off-street. This will help to increase the visibility of such equipment and encourage drivers to switch to less polluting forms of transport.

New Parking Charges

WDC has varied its charges for parking in its car parks via a Notice issued under s35c of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Appendix B contains the full list of car parks and charges. The charges came into force on 3 January 2022.

Warwickshire's LTP3 states that the use of on-street parking charges will be considered where appropriate in order to encourage the use of other sustainable modes of transport, Park and Ride or off-street car parks in preference to on-street parking. Where car park charges are in place, WCC will work with district and borough car park managers to operate a co-ordinated approach which sets charges at a rate which encourages off-street parking.

The new charges are somewhat higher than those levied by Warwickshire County Council for comparable on-street waiting times. The difference in off and on-street parking fees may result in an increase in demand for on-street parking, leading to network congestion as a result of additional cars circulating town centres as drivers search for somewhere to park on-street.

The use of the s35c Notice to vary parking charges does not require consultation with WCC, nor its approval. The Portfolio Holder's decision to approve or refuse consent to the Off-Street Parking Order (OSPO) will therefore have no bearing on car park charges. The County will continue to work closely with WDC to manage parking demand both on and off-street in order to reduce network congestion and to encourage sustainable transport choices and will need to give careful consideration to its own on-street parking charges in light of WDC's decision.

Once a decision has been made by the Portfolio Holder on WDC's OSPO the decision document will be sent immediately to WDC via email.

4. Financial implications

The increase in WDC car park charges via the s35c Notice may result in additional on-street parking with some revenue benefits for WCC, but this is difficult to quantify.

5. Environmental implications

The proposed introduction of electric vehicle chargepoints in WDC car parks is designed to promote EV uptake, and this is a welcome proposal. There are air quality management areas in all five district and borough councils owing to an excess of nitrogen dioxide, an exhaust gas from fossil-fuel powered cars. A switch to electric vehicles will have a beneficial impact on air quality by helping to reduce emissions of this gas and assist with the government's target of carbon neutrality by 2050.

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Strategic Director	Mark Ryder
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Wallace Redford

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

None

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Wallace Redford

Corporate Board – N/A

Legal – Serena Cammish, Ian Marriott

Finance – Caroline Jones

Equality – n/a

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors – Clarke, Chilvers, Fradgley & D’Arcy

Local Member(s): Cllrs Cooke, Drew, Spencer, Redford, Matecki, Falp, Singh
Birdi, Holland, Darcy, Gifford, Boad, Millar, Roberts, Chilvers