

**FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION ON
REVIEW OF PARKING OPERATIONS & CHARGES**

Agenda Item 7(d)

Portfolio Area:	Environment & Sustainability
Report Presented by:	Cllr Roger Walters

Background Papers:	Report to Cabinet 12 October 2009
Corporate Implications:	Please refer to table at end of report
Options:	N/A
Risks:	N/A

Executive Summary

On 12 October 2009, Cabinet considered a report on a Review of Parking Operations and Charges within the Braintree District and agreed that the Council should undertake full consultation on the following recommendations before making a decision:-

- (a) That the 'medium' parking tariff (Option 3 at Appendix 2 of the report) be agreed and applied from 1 April 2010.
- (b) That the Council's four rural car parks be transferred to the Parish Councils/or charges be introduced as outlined in the report.
- (c) That free parking for blue badge holders (maximum 3 hours stay) be maintained.
- (d) That charges be introduced for parking at Causeway House, Braintree, on Saturdays.
- (e) That a flat charge of 50p all day for parking in all of the Council's car parks be introduced on Sundays.

A public notice was placed in the local press w/c 15 November 2009 inviting comments on the proposals and letters were also sent out to all District & County Councillors, all Parish and Town Councils, the three Town Centre Strategy Groups and the Chambers of Commerce. The consultation deadline was Monday, 7 December 2009, and all comments received have been reproduced at Appendix 1.

Members are asked to note the feedback from the consultation process which will be reported to Cabinet on 1 February 2010 prior to the recommendations being determined.

A separate statutory consultation is being undertaken by our Legal Department in respect of the changes to the Off Street Parking Places Order.

Decision

1. To note feedback from the consultation on the recommendations contained within the Review of Parking Operations and Charges, as set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

Corporate Implications				
Financial:	N/A			
Legal:	N/A			
Equalities & Diversity:	N/A			
Customer Impact:	N/A			
Environment & Climate Change:	N/A			
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Local Committees	Yes	Town & Parish Councils & Business Community	Yes
	Public	Yes	Staff	No
Key Decision:	N/A			
Public/Private Report:	Public [Insert relevant paragraph number]			
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FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM CAR PARK CONSULTATION**Cllr E Lynch (by e-mail)**

I believe to take the medium increase is the correct way forward. However I do have some reservations and comments

On car parks, do away with 1 hour charge, have a 30 minute free parking similar to the system in use at one of the supermarket car parks; if more than 30 minutes needed, then a charge of up to 3 hour charge at £1.50. Longer short term car park charges remain as proposed. This up to 3 hours includes the "free 30 minute parking". We would not have an up to one hour option.

I would like to propose AGAIN that the White Horse car park be designated a Commuter Car park. This seems to be what it is being used for. There should be a percentage of season tickets available; this could be 50% initially reserved basis for BDC residents. These season tickets would be a fixed April to March and any season tickets not taken up by BDC residents before 3rd week of March each year could then be offered to residents from outside the District.

I notice that Braintree Rail station does not offer a quarterly season ticket. BDC does.

The season ticket price does this apply to Short stay?

If this is the case, then we would appear to be basing our cost on a NINE DAY Month. I would have no objection to this in our short stay car parks (George Yard) and suggest they use the top floor that seems to be rarely occupied. If a season ticket is returned before expiry, do we offer a refund and on what basis?

For Blue Badge Holders and on street parking we should introduce a Disk parking system. I am sure you are aware what I mean but in case? Customers use a disk to place on the dashboard with the hands indicating the time parking actually started. This helps traffic wardens in identifying overstay vehicles.

I am pleased it has been decided not to charge Blue Badge Holders for up to 3 hours.

On the subject of Blue Badge parking, are they allowed to park on DOUBLE yellow lines?

Many thanks for giving me the opportunity to comment on the Car Parking Proposals.

Cllr Mrs M Galione (by e-mail)

With regard to car parking charges, I wonder if charges on Saturdays at Causeway House and a 50p fee on all car parks on Sundays would produce sufficient return to justify the payment of a car park attendant.

I would also mention any free parking over the Christmas period. If this is not publicised clearly at the ticket machine, people become confused and wonder if the machine is not working or think they have coins which won't take their money. I have seen it happen!

Black Notley Parish Council (by letter)

I write with reference to your letter dated the 13th November 2009, regarding the Formal Consultation Review of Off Street Parking within the Braintree District.

This consultation was discussed at the recent Parish Council meeting and it was agreed that item 'e' That a flat charge of 50p all day for parking in all of the Council's car parks be introduced on Sundays. - It was very strongly objected to by the Council as the town is already very quiet and empty and charging on Sundays would not help this situation.

White Colne Parish Council (by e-mail)

The Parish Council considered your letter dated 13 November reference PP/CC/178 which was opened and read at the recent Parish Council Meeting. I am asked to advise you that the Parish Council objects to any proposal which leads to the introduction of car parking charges in Earls Colne as Earls Colne is the shopping area for our parish and cars are required to travel there.

Feering Parish Council (by letter)

Further to Mr. Partridge's letter of 13 November, seeking comments on the above consultation, whilst noting that the proposed charges are low in comparison to similar town centres, Feering Parish Councillors consider that free disabled parking should be retained.

Cllr O'Reilly Cicconi (by phone)

Does not agree with Option (e) - he does not think BDC should charge for parking on Sundays.

Re Option (d) - he notes that this may not be relevant, but would not have a problem with it.

Cllr T Wilkinson (by phone)

Agrees with the letter, but made the comment that disabled badge cars should not be able to park on the High Street on market days. They can be dropped off there provided that they have a valid disabled badge, but should not be allowed to park. In addition, the Wardens should check whether the disabled stickers are valid.

Cllr D Finch (by letter)

I'm contacting you in relation to the recommendations contained in this report and am pleased to advise that, with the exception of (5) Introduce a flat charge of 50p all day for parking in all of the Council's car parks on Sundays; I am happy to support the following proposals:

1. Agree the 'medium' parking tariff (Option 3 at Appendix 2) to be applied from 1 April 2010.
2. Transfer the Council's four rural car parks to the Parish Councils and if they do not wish to take them on, introduce charges as outlined in the report.
3. Maintain free parking for blue badge holders (max 3 hrs)
4. Introduce charges for parking at Causeway House on Saturdays
5. Approve capital funding for the new 'Pay & Display ticket machines in the current financial year.

RESPONSES FROM MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC

From: Mary Schoeser [mailto:schoeser@tiscali.co.uk]

Sent: 11 December 2009 16:03

To: Planning Comments

Subject: pay and display proposal, Coggeshall car park

I cannot make the meeting on 14th December but would like to lodge my strong view that introducing a pay and display system to the Stoneham Street, Coggeshall, car park would be a disaster for local residents and traders alike.

It would deter some visitors and push others to cruise the streets until they found a free spot. It is already difficult enough for those of us who live in the town centre to park and some residents depend on being able to use the car park themselves when there is no space on the street.

Even though I myself have NEVER used the car park in my 25+ years in the village, I would rather pay higher rates, the increase ring-fenced, to maintain free parking for the greater good of the town.

Mary Schoeser, 25 East Street, Coggeshall

FEEDBACK FROM FEES & CHARGES GROUP MEETING 30 NOVEMBER 2009

1. Happy with report, however, group supports the views expressed by Councillor Lynch in his consultation response for consideration in 2011/2012.
2. They feel that the charges next year must be based on empirical information that is anticipated to be available from the Parking Partnership.
3. That the incentive of ½ hr free parking at all town centre car parks should be considered as a way of supporting traders, whichever way it can be fitted into the pricing structure.
4. That sponsorship from traders or money back schemes with traders should be evaluated.
5. George Yard season tickets should be limited to top level use only.
6. That season ticket refund criteria should be reviewed and be based on the usage charge of the expired period together with an administration charge, rather than a flat process. Officers to ensure the final charge reflects the parking opportunities had.