

WDC Consultation on Parking Charges

Without knowing the details of what is being proposed/considered by WDC, Members raised the following comments for consideration:

- Members were keen to utilise the carparks as a means of attracting visitors to the town. They would like to see an area converted for coach parking in Square West carpark for group tours, and the re-introduction of free Sunday parking. This would hugely benefit the businesses in the town and attract more footfall for our town's attractions.
- Members discussed a discounted parking scheme for those who work in the town centre. Many are on minimum wage and would benefit from a discounted parking scheme/season ticket to allow them to park in the town centre car parks. This would increase revenue for WDC and reduce the impact on local residential roads.
- The parking of electric vehicles was raised. Members understand electric vehicles used to benefit from free parking in WDC carparks under a pilot scheme and they would like to see this reinstated. Members also considered an alternative revenue stream for WDC by suggesting the installation of WDC owned electric vehicle charging stations in their car parks. Members queried whether existing EV charge points are producing revenue for WDC.
- Members sought the reintroduction of disabled parking bays in Abbey End carpark near to the doctors surgery. Whilst it is accepted that WDC have the required amount of disabled spaces available, the change in location of these is not conducive to the area. Members were mindful that Kenilworth has a larger than average disabled population than other areas in the district.
- Parking at the town's leisure facilities was discussed and Members noted the parking scheme currently in use at St Nicholas leisure centre carpark in Warwick. Members believe this could be introduced at Castle Farm Leisure Centre with members/users of the leisure centre being allowed the first two hours free parking whilst using the facilities. Other visitors would be required to pay a modest charge for use of the carparking facilities.
- Members are conscious that the town centre carparks lose a lot of revenue to the various local supermarkets who all offer two/three hours free parking. Consideration should be given to this in Kenilworth rather than a blanket charging approach across the district. The re-introduction of reduced charging for the first 30 minutes-1 hour should be considered, particularly for underutilised carparks such as Square West.
- Members were aware that the WDC carparks are well used in the evenings. It may be necessary to ensure all have paid the correct fee for use of the area.
- Obtaining a cross section of comments and feedback is vital to ensure full and accurate consideration is given to the issue of parking charges. Members were keen to understand which organisations have been consulted in the town and felt feedback should be obtained from the town centre traders, the Kenilworth Centre, St Nicholas Church and the medical centres.