

Amendments to update the Bromsgrove Car Parking Order

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Karen May
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Car parking in the district is currently regulated by the Bromsgrove District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2015. A number of aspects of the existing order are now out of date due to changes to car parks in the centre of Bromsgrove and following the opening of the new Bromsgrove station. This report therefore seeks Members approval to revisions to the existing order to bring it up to date, and to a revised fees and charges schedule for parking to reflect the changes to the car parking order.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to resolve:

- 2.1 to approve and adopt the Bromsgrove District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2017 (as attached at Appendix 1), and to delegate to the Head of Environment Services, and the Head of Legal Equalities and Democratic Services the task of implementing the new parking order in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Cabinet is asked to recommend to Full Council:

- 2.2 to approve the revised schedule of fees and charges for parking (as attached at Appendix 2) and for the revised fees to come into effect from the date of adoption of the new car parking order.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 As the recommendations in this report seek primarily to rationalise existing charges rather than to introduce new ones, it is anticipated that any effect on car parking revenue will be minimal.

- 3.2 There will be costs involved in updating the signage for the various car park pay and display machines, tariff boards and there will be a cost to amend the ticket machine to enable the free issue of timed tickets at Aston Fields car park.

Legal Implications

- 3.3 Bromsgrove District Council operates a system of providing off street parking for residents under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The legislation allows the Council to designate off street car parks (Section 32) and regulate their operation, including the levying of charges through a local parking order (Section 35). The current parking order in force is the Bromsgrove District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2015.
- 3.4 The process for updating the order is prescribed by the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.5 The car parking order was last updated using delegated powers in October 2015. No changes were made to charges but the revisions covered the closure of Recreation Road North car park which had been sold to developers, and the introduction of Parkside Office car park.
- 3.6 The 2015 order now requires further revision to reflect the following changes:-

Disposal of Hanover Street Car Park

The sale of the land making up the Hanover Street Car Park was completed in July 2016 and the car park was closed in August 2016. As such the car park needs to be removed from the current car parking order. Members will be aware the land is currently being re-developed as a Waitrose store. The Council has agreed to act as the operator of the car park once it has been completed and a further revision of the car parking order will be required in April 2017 to include the refurbished car park.

Re-designation of short stay and long stay car parks

The Council had previously designated Hanover Street, School Drive, Stourbridge Road and Recreation Road North as long stay Pay and Display car parks. This was reflected in the tariffs for these car parks and also enabled holders of Long Stay Permit Holders to use any of those three car parks. With the closure of Hanover Street and Recreation Road North there has been feedback from customers that there is insufficient provision in the town centre for Long Stay Permit Holders. Accordingly officers are recommending that New Road car park and Parkside car park are re-designated as long stay and that the long stay tariff is applied.

Charges for Long Stay Permits

The current charge for a Long Stay Permit is £320.00 per annum. In addition the Council offers Long Stay Permits at Churchfields Multi-Story or Stourbridge Road for £215.00 per annum. Officers are recommending that the tariff of £215.00 for the multi-storey be retained. For Stourbridge Road Car Park, the proposal is for this to be included in the general Long Stay Permit going forward. Therefore the fee of £215.00 for this car park would be removed, and the car park would be available for use under the general Long Stay Permit.

Dolphin Centre Car park

This car park is currently being used by the contractors working on the new sports centre development and will then form part of the new car park for the facility, it is proposed to remove this car park from the Parking Order.

Bromsgrove Station

The new station facilities at Bromsgrove Station opened in July 2016 including car parking spaces provided by West Midlands Combined Authority for 350 spaces. In light of this, officers have been reviewing the future use of the Council owned 45 space car park at the site of the former station. The tariff is currently £3.00 per day. Officers are proposing the introduction of a parking permit for use at the Station car park and would propose that the annual fee for this is £320 (limited to 40 permits). In addition, Members are asked to consider the car park being available for shoppers for a maximum period of 2 hours free of charge. This would address the need for provision of parking locally for the shops and businesses located on Stoke Road/ New Road. To differentiate the Council car park from the new station car park, and to avoid confusion to visitors to the station, it is proposed that the council car park be re-named as "Aston Fields Car Park".

- 3.7 Recreation Road South car park continues to operate under the Pay on Foot system. Whilst this works well there are occasionally issues when customers do not realise that there is a maximum time limit on their stay of 5 hours. To address this officers are proposing to amend the tariff to enable a maximum stay of 14 hours with fee increments of 80 pence per hour up to a maximum of £11.20 as set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.8 Members are asked to note that other than the changes to charges outlined above, the fees for parking are not being subject to any overall increases. Charges are only applied currently from the hours of 8am to 7 pm following on from the Cabinet decision on evening parking in 2014, and this report does not propose to make any changes to that arrangement.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 This report responds to customer feedback regarding loss of long stay car parking places in the town centre and seeks to redress this through changes to the Long Stay Permit arrangements.

3.8

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 There is a risk that introducing fee parking for shoppers at Aston Filed Car Park will lead to enforcement issues with parkers illegitimately overstaying. Officers are proposing to address this by requiring customers to obtain a ticket from the pay and display machine. Whilst there will be no charge for this a valid ticket will have to be displayed and this method will enable enforcement officers to police the car park more effectively.

4.2 There a risk associated with enforcement following the introduction of changes to the tariffs and conditions of parking. Therefore it is proposed that enforcement officers will only issue warning notices for a period of 2 weeks for contraventions that have been amended following the adoption of the new parking order.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Bromsgrove District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2017

Appendix 2 - Revised Schedule of Fees and Charges for Bromsgrove District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2017

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

7. KEY

N/A

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