

Car parking strategy consultation.

The provision of suitable and sufficient parking facilities plays an important role in promoting the vitality of town centres.

The current parking strategy was published in 2008 and needs to be reviewed to meet the changing needs of the local community.

The strategy has been developed to set out Harborough District Council's approach for the management of the car parks and parking enforcement and we now welcome your views on the draft document and the recommendations that came out of the development of the strategy.

Following the consultation of the strategy, a revised Off-Street Parking Order (which sets the regulations, management and charging structure) will be considered by members.

### **Page 1 Car Park Tariff Review**

Car park tariff structures are very important in managing parking provision. In setting charges the Council will consider how the charges will:

- Support economic vitality
- Make best use of Council Assets
- Recover costs, maintain and improve the service.

A suitable charging regime helps to manage the turnover of parking bays. There should be a sufficient price difference between the long and short stay car parks to encourage appropriate use of the car parks.

Charges would need to be set at a level that reflects the nature of the town; at a level which will ensure proper management of the parking service whilst not having an adverse effect on the local economy.

Consideration should be given to the pricing structure of neighbouring towns to ensure Harborough remains a competitive location.

The cost of car parking, including permits, should be set at a level to ensure that the towns still remain competitive but will maintain the proper management of the parking service including enforcement and the maintenance of the Council's car parks.

Consideration is being given to review the charging tariff in line with the recommendation of the strategy with the potential charging structure as set out below.

Car park	Up to 1 hour	Up to 2 hours	Up to 3 hours	Up to 4 hours	Over 4 hours
Current Short-stay	N/A	70p	£1.20	£1.70	£3.20

Potential tariff for Lutterworth	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>£1.50</b>	<b>£2.50</b>	<b>£4.00</b>
Potential tariff for Market Harborough Short stay	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>£1.50</b>	<b>£2.50</b>	<b>£6:00</b>
Current Long-stay	<b>£1.20</b>				<b>£2.20</b>
Potential tariff for long stay car parks	<b>£2.00</b>				<b>£4.00</b>

The Council offers a number of permits for car parks which can be a cost effective and convenient way of paying for car parking. The price of the long stay car park permits are based on the cost of the longest stay tariff and the table below sets out the potential costs of permits. The resident's permits are available for Stamford Road Market Harborough for residents of Nithsdale Avenue.

Permit Type	Long Stay Car Park Permit - New Price			Residents Permits
	Annual	Half Yearly	Monthly	Annual
6 day permit				
Actual costs	£1152.00	£576.00	£96.00	£40.00
Year 1: 40% discount	£696.00	£350.00	£62.00	N/A
Year 3: 33% discount	£777.00	£390.00	£69.00	N/A
Year 5: 25% discount	£869.00	£437.00	£77.00	N/A

Consideration is also being given to provide free parking on Bank Holidays and to retain free parking on Sundays.

**Do you agree with the Council's approach to reviewing the tariff structure?**

**Yes/No/Don't know?**

<p>Comment</p>
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Whilst Market Harborough has a greater number of public car parking spaces per population compared to a number of other authorities we do appreciate that there are times when it can be difficult to find a space. This is reflected in the comments we received following a survey of car parking users as part of the development of the strategy.

The condition of the Council’s car parks is an important consideration in attracting users.

During the development of the strategy, consideration was given to whether it is appropriate to introduce charges at car parks which are currently free such as Symington Recreation Ground car park.

We propose to invest in a work programme to improve the condition of the car parks and to maximise the number of spaces, to improve signage and access in our car parks.

The draft strategy recommends:

- Reviewing the options for the existing car parks, including the re-designation of car parks to ensure maximum availability of spaces to meet future demand including providing the right mix of long and short stay spaces
- Reviewing the access Layout and signage of car parks
- Looking at the possibility of widening the “pop and shop” scheme (bay with 30 minute free period) to other car parks in the district.
- Ensuring adequate provision of disabled bays in the car parks.

**Do you agree with the Council’s approach to improving the car parking facilities in the towns?**

**Yes/No/Don’t know**

Any additional comments?
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### **Page 3 Exploration of alternative payment methods**

All car parks are pay and display only. The ability to pay for car parking by different methods of was welcomed during the survey of people using the car parks.

The Council is considering the introduction of:

- Chip and pin/cashless payment options on the machines in the car parks

- The introduction of pay by phone systems.

**Do you agree with the Council's approach to providing alternate methods of payment for users of the car parks?**

**Yes/No/Don't know**

Any additional comments?

#### **4. Ensure adequate provision for those with particular requirements**

The draft strategy has identified other improvements for investment consideration.

These include:

- Exploration of coach parking facilities in the towns
- The introduction of electrical vehicle charging points in some car parks

**Do you think the Council is taking the right approach in areas for investment?**

**Yes/No/Don't know**

Any additional comments?