

Proposed Increase to Car Parking Charges

Initial Summary of Consultation Responses

Ref	Proposal	Consultation Responses (numbers received in brackets)
1	10p per hour increase on car parking charges	<p>Object: (14)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charges already too high.• Bicester town centre is already struggling with established businesses closing. Â The forthcoming town centre development is going to put a further strain on these businesses with shoppers choosing to go elsewhere. Â There is currently no encouragement for people to shop and with businesses closing down the discouragement continues• What an incredibly insensitive proposal. The proposals could be looked at again once the new centre is up and running. There should be a proper long term parking area in the town for the benefit of those who work here, with a large cost for one hour, reducing proportionally as the time lengthens. I can't believe the Tories are so keen to alienate their natural business supporters.• At a time when Bicester is undergoing massive redevelopment and shops are closing almost daily why on earth are you increasing car parking charges? You should be looking to support the town through this rocky period not make it even more difficult for the shops and businesses. How about free parking in the weeks leading up to Christmas to encourage people into the town rather than driving them away?.• Bicester Town are losing trade through the Bicester Village complex where parking is free. It would be better if any increases or changes were introduced after the Bicester Town Centre redevelopment is completed. Â Then there would be justification for revised parking charges.• Locals are likely to drive to Witney where parking is free.• Many things can be purchased in Tesco and so I would go there instead of going into town unless absolute necessity.• Fees will put an even bigger strain on pensioners and students• I think this is an inappropriate time to increase car parking charges in the light of job losses and the VAT increase.

		<p>Approve: (5) In the current financial situation, this seems reasonable.</p>
2	<p>Blue badge holder parking Increase of fees / charging hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All blue badge parking to become chargeable. • Charging in line with standard hourly rates 	<p>Objections (32)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unacceptable especially charging the same amount as able bodied people as the Disabled cannot work / little comprehension regarding emotional & psychological effects if situations like this (1) • This is a critically handicapping move for mobility impaired people. It will stop many being part of the community in the main centres (2) • It will raise the first barrier they have to their independence (1) • This will be a disincentive for visually impaired people to go out. It is difficult for them to find work, thus constituting a considerable burden on them/ their carers. • A discounted charge should be paid by blue badge holders (1) • Free parking should continue due to the cut in benefits for the disabled (1) • Unfair penalising of their 'helpful privileges' (1) • Badge holders would park on yellow lines free of charge thus causing congestion on the streets. (4) Double-yellow parking will potentially cost much more than you'll recoup in the parking charges. • Would result in less business for Banbury & Bicester shops / businesses (2) • Discrimination: Some disabled people would not be able to use the ticket machines (2) • Charging the same rates as able bodied is discrimination (2) • Many Badge holders depend on very busy / stressed carers. This is an obstacle resulting in them being less inclined to donate their time (1) • Victimisation because badge holders are vulnerable / an easy target. Totally unjust as they have previously worked, paying taxes & dues (1) • Another burden for the poorer people (1) • This is a money grabbing exercise which will penalise the general public

	<p>Blue badge holder parking Increase of fees / charging hours (Cont'd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One additional hour FOC at all short/ultra short stay car parks 	<p>and bleed the existing scheme. It will alienate the Council further (2) Outrageous.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot carry shopping therefore cannot use public transport. (1) • In the current financial situation, this seems reasonable • I believe blue badge holders should have at least their first hour's parking free of charge. They need access to public areas. (1) • Why did Cherwell District Council not charge their employees to park at Bodicote House and generate revenue in that way. • Would recommend that a meaningful fee be charged when the Blue badge is issued and again on re-issue. • The proposals to give one free hour is rather patronising and tokenistic. <p>Approve (5) In support with the proviso of 1 free hour. (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLA is based on your ability and is not means tested, therefore any charges effect those rich or poor - as they do everyone else. You are not 'poorer' because you are disabled (1) • It is reasonable to expect all members of the community, including Blue Badge holders, to help achieve the savings required by the current financial climate. It would be more pertinent for Blue Badge holders to seek a reasonable number and placement of reserved car parking spaces, and perhaps some degree of concessionary charge (such as a reduced season ticket), rather than expecting to be excluded from paying a reasonable level of car parking fee (1)
3	<p>Introduction of evening charges</p>	<p>Object: (9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will adversely affect the night time economy of the town at a time when it should be supported. Restaurants especially. • If you go for an evening meal, you don't want to be timed. • Why do I have to pay to attended a church meeting at the Methodist Church, where there is limited parking? <p>Approve: (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No objection in principal but would prefer a flat tariff i.e. 50p or £1.00 to

		<p>park from 6pm to the following morning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As long as it's well signposted.
4.	Increase of Excess Charges Notice charges.	<p>Object: (2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive, surely does not reflect admin involved. <p>Approve: (7)</p>
5	Season tickets. Pricing structure to be retained in line with increase in pay and display charges. Consideration will be given to a greater discount being offered to encourage further take up.	<p>Object (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yet another cost to business owners who are already seeing their income fall. <p>Approve (10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be helpful for those who work in town. As an infrequent visitor it would not apply to me.
6	Unifying Sunday & Bank Holiday charges in line with Mon-Sat charges	<p>Object: (15):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended hours for Wardens thus more money paid on 'unnecessary things'. • Disagree - the Sunday charge is fairly new and expensive when you only need to spend an hour in town. • Sunday and BH should be lower than the rest of the week - it encourages shoppers! • Having a daily fee that is chargeable whatever day of the week would be easy to administer, and would be easily understood, but seems a bit tight for Sundays and Bank Holidays. Might it be more acceptable (and be seen as more generous) to have a reduced daily flat rate on these days (50p for 2hrs, similar to your proposed evening charges)? Obviously depends on what financial benefit would accrue. • Bank holiday charging –No • This is unfair on those who like to attend church on a Sunday. Once again the car parks are not that busy on Sundays or Bank Holidays. • Dreadful as there are so few facilities in the town. It will deter shops from opening and damage economy • I think this is the worst of the proposals. It's unfair to increase the charge to church goers by over 200% just to attend worship. Volunteer helpers with youth activities at town centre churches often spend over 3 hours at

		<p>church and their parking charges will rise massively if this proposal is accepted.</p> <p>Approve: (1) Sunday charging yes.</p>
7	<p>Charging on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day.</p>	<p>Object: (12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much will it cost to enforce on Christmas day?! • These are British, but Christian, festivals. Seems a bit Scrouge-like to charge on such days but, without including other ethnic festive days, there is a logic to having some form of parking charge for every day. Is the forecast level of income on these days worthwhile, considering the level of public outcry that may be generated? Might some degree of generosity in approach achieve public good-will? • Yes - if people want to go shopping on Good Friday and Boxing Day let them pay! Seems a bit uncharitable on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday though! (1Yes & 1 No) • Good Friday is the only day in the above where you might make a profit. • I don't see the point except perhaps Boxing Day and New Years Day for the sales. • You will alienate people for very little reward. • Appalling. Increase the facilities and entice people into town rather than deterring them from visiting <p>Approve: (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely right, the busiest times of the year so why not take in money?