

**LEYBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL**

Leybourne Village Hall, Little Market Row, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QL

Tel: 01732 873722

Email clerk@leybournepc.org.uk

FAO Mr N Heslop
Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4LZ

5th December 2019

Dear Mr Heslop,

>

> I am writing on behalf of Leybourne Parish Council to express our deep concerns at the decision made by TMBC to increase parking charges at West Malling and to introduce parking charges at several other car parks including Martin Square.

>

> Leybourne Parish Council, on behalf of residents, are concerned that this will be another nail in the coffin of local businesses. One only has to walk on West Malling High Street to see the number of shops that have now closed and are empty. The town is losing some of the positive vibe it has had for decades. It is accepted that parking charges are not the only cause of the closure but they are likely to be a contributor. The town may soon only consist of coffee shops, hairdressers and charity shops.

>

> The parish council is particularly concerned about the decision to now introduce charges at Martin Square, Larkfield. Many Leybourne residents use the shops and facilities, including the chemist and library at Martin Square and are concerned that the introduction of charges will reduce the number of people using the local businesses and will, by definition, increase the cost of using these facilities.

>

> We are disappointed that this proposal was accepted and that none of our elected borough councillors spoke or voted against the proposals. We are concerned that rather than doing all it can to support local businesses and help keep the high street and local businesses alive it appears intent on speeding their demise.

Yours sincerely

Cllr R Ulph
Chairman of Leybourne Parish Council

cc. Mrs J Beilby Chief Executive
cc. Mr R Styles Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- 9 DEC 2019

Claire Twinn

From: West Malling Parish Council Clerk <clerk@westmallingspc.org>
Sent: 10 February 2020 13:19
To: Andy Bracey
Cc: Parking Office
Subject: Car Parking Consultation - West Malling
Attachments: Car Park charges - Feb 2019.doc

Dear Andy,

Please find attached West Malling Parish Council's comments in respect of the car parking charges consultation.

Kind regards

Claire

Claire Christmas
Clerk to West Malling Parish Council
tel: 01732 870872
www.westmallingspc.org

Kent Rural Community of the Year

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WEST MALLING PARISH COUNCIL

9 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6QH

Telephone: 01732 870872

email: clerk@westmallingpc.org

website: www.westmallingpc.org

Clerk to the Parish Council: Claire Christmas



Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Gibson Building
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
ME19 4LZ

10th February 2020

Dear Andy,

West Malling Parish Council strongly objects to the proposed increase in charges in West Malling High Street and Ryarsh Lane car parks.

Since the introduction of charges in the High Street car park, businesses have noticed a drop in trade. It is worth noting that we currently have 3 empty shops in the town. Should the fees be increased, more shoppers will undoubtedly go to supermarkets, where they can park for free. The 'browsing shopper' who would come to West Malling for a particular shop, but then browse through the rest of the town, could all but disappear.

The Ryarsh Lane car park is used by staff who work in the various shops and offices in the town. An increase of £80 for an annual ticket is incredibly steep, and will impact greatly on businesses who are already noticing a downturn in trade. There has been a comparison made by TMBC between the Ryarsh Lane car park and the station car park. The station is predominantly used by people who are going into London to work, and therefore earning a London wage. The Ryarsh Lane car park is used by people who work in West Malling, and are on a significantly smaller income.

In the future, further effort should be made by TMBC to communicate with the business in the town, who are the ones at the greatest risk, and understand the impact that these charges have.

Exceptions to charges - we ask that exceptions to charges be made for GP type mobile clinics such as units used for breast screening and Diabetes eyes checks.

With regards to Martin Square, Larkfield, we strongly object to the proposed introduction of charges and concur with the comments submitted by East Malling & Larkfield Parish Council.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Claire Christmas.

Claire Christmas
Clerk to West Malling Parish Council

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