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TONBRIDGE & MALLING
BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

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13 March 2020

CABINET - TUESDAY, 17TH MARCH, 2020

Agenda No Item

7. **Review of Car Parking Fees and Charges (Pages 3 - 38)**

Copy of background reports to SSESAB

The report seeks approval of recommendations for off-street car parking charges recently considered at the meeting of the Street Scene & Environment Services Advisory Board on 5 March 2020. The recommendations generate additional income which has an impact on the MTFS.

8. **On Street Parking Fees and Charges (Pages 39 - 46)**

Copy of background reports to JTB

The report seeks approval of recommendations for On Street Parking Fees & Charges to be considered at the meeting of the Joint Transportation Board on 9 March 2020. The recommendations generate additional income and therefore have an impact on the MTFS.

J E BEILBY
Chief Executive

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Item SSE 20/8 referred from Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board minutes of 5 March 2020

SSE 20/8 CAR PARKING FEES AND CHARGES - OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The joint report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services and the Director of Finance and Transformation set out details of the objections and comments received during the statutory consultation period in respect of proposed off-street parking charges for existing car parks in Tonbridge, West Malling, Borough Green, Blue Bell Hill and the Council's Country Parks at Leybourne Lakes and Haysden. In response to a request from Members it was confirmed that a concession could be made for the diabetic screening unit/clinic at West Malling Car Park.

RECOMMENDED: That the following actions be progressed prior to the proposed parking charges, as outlined in the report, coming into effect on 5 April 2020:-

- (1) the objections to the proposed changes to the off-street parking charges, as detailed in the report, be set aside; and
- (2) the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order be made to facilitate the variation of the off-street parking charges.

***Referred to Cabinet**

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STREET SCENE and ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

05 March 2020

**Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services and the
Director of Finance & Transformation**

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Key Decision

1 CAR PARKING FEES AND CHARGES – OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Summary

This report considers the objections and comments received during the statutory consultation period relating to proposed off-street parking charges. The report relates to existing car parks where charges are already in place in Tonbridge, West Malling, Borough Green, Blue Bell Hill and the Council's two Country Parks.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 At the October 2019 meeting of this Board, Members considered a number of proposals to change the Council's off-street parking charges and made a number of recommendations to Cabinet. At an Extraordinary meeting of Cabinet on 6th January 2020 it was agreed that the proposed charges would be approved for consultation in accordance with the requirements of Statutory Regulations. To enable the charges to be introduced a new off-street Traffic Regulation Order is required.
- 1.1.2 Where there is a statutory process a local authority should comply with the process as laid out. In the case of the proposed car parking charges this is under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, following the procedure set out in the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England & Wales) Regulations 1996. Regulation 8 of the 1996 Regulations requires a 21 day consultation period.
- 1.1.3 This report covers proposals for the Council's existing car parks in Tonbridge, West Malling, Borough Green, Blue Bell Hill and the Council's two Country Parks. Proposed charges for the Council's car parks in Martin Square and Aylesford will be reported to the next meeting of this Board on 9th June 2020. On Street parking charges (Residents Parking Permits) will be reported to the Joint Transportation Board on 9th March 2020.

1.2 Consultation

1.2.1 The statutory consultation was carried out between 17th January and 9th February 2020.

1.2.2 The proposed charges considered in this report are outlined in the Intends Notice, shown at **Annex 1**.

1.2.3 The statutory consultation process followed a number of steps inviting comments or objections as follows:-

- Notices were placed in each car park by each pay and display machine;
- Adverts were placed in the Kent Messenger;
- Letters were sent to each Parish/Town Council and Borough Council Member;
- Letters were sent to all statutory consultees (Police, Fire, Bus operators etc.);
- Consultation documents were placed “on-deposit” for inspection at the Council Offices in Kings Hill and Tonbridge Castle.

The consultation documents were also placed on the Council’s website. In line with the Council’s new Digital Strategy respondents were able to make comments online.

1.2.4 During the consultation period 85 responses were received.

1.2.5 17 of the responses did not relate to the proposals in the Intends Notice, but related to other proposals for the introduction of parking charges in either Martin Square, Larkfield or Bailey Bridge (East and West) car parks in Aylesford. These responses will therefore be incorporated into the consultation on Martin Square and Aylesford car parks, which will be reported to the next meeting of this Board on 9th June 2020.

1.2.6 There were also several responses relating to potential changes to on-street charging. The Council has not yet consulted on proposals for on-street charges but, subject to approval by the Joint Transportation Board on 9th March 2020, will be embarking on a consultation exercise in mid March to early April 2020. The responses will be held over for inclusion in that forthcoming consultation.

1.2.7 This leaves 68 responses relevant to this consultation, of which 4 were duplicates.

1.2.8 The 64 discrete responses that related to this consultation raised a number of issues which are outlined below. West Malling and Leybourne Parish Councils

responded to the consultation and their responses are included. The full text of each response (redacted of personal details) is shown at **Annex 2**.

1.3 General Responses Received

1.3.1 There were a number of general comments that related to the proposals that were not location specific.

Comment	Times Raised	Officer Response
Consider 30 minute/1 hour free parking to maintain footfall for local businesses	5	There are significant costs associated with the operation and enforcement of the car parks. The effective management of town centre parking is vital to assist the turn-over of spaces for shoppers that supports the local businesses. Proposals apply no increase to 30 minute tariff.
As elected representatives you should do more to help the High Street/local businesses	4	Impact on businesses is taken into account when bringing forward proposals. The Council does not apply charges on Sundays, Bank holidays and evenings to support local businesses.
Parking charges shouldn't have been introduced in the first place	3	There are significant costs associated with the operation and enforcement of the car parks. The effective management of town centre parking is vital to assist the turn-over of spaces. The proposals do not represent significant increases.
Consider charging model at end of stay rather than at beginning	2	A "pay at end" model of parking management has benefits, but also significant problems - the necessary infrastructure is not well-suited to surface car parks, and areas where there are no barrier controls. However, we already offer a "start-stop" method of payment by Parkmobile.
Include exceptions to charges for NHS mobile units e.g. breast screening	1	At the last meeting of this Board Members supported parking concessions for the Breast Screening Unit and Blood Donation Service in Tonbridge.
Increasing charges impacts on the daily lives of people	1	There are significant costs associated with the operation and enforcement of the car parks. The effective management of town centre parking is vital to assist the turn-over of spaces. The proposals do not represent significant increases.
Introduces private finance into another area of public life	1	There are significant costs associated with the operation and enforcement of the car parks. The effective management of town centre parking is vital to assist the turn-over of spaces. The proposals do not represent significant increases.
Why not charge in the evenings too - pubs/restaurants benefit disproportionately?	1	The introduction of an evening charge is something that could be considered in any future review of charges.
Work with KCC and others to increase capacity for free parking in town centres to boost footfall	1	There are significant costs for the operation and enforcement of the car parks. The effective management of town centre parking is vital to assist the turn-over of spaces. Charges are

Comment	Times Raised	Officer Response
		currently free on Sundays, Bank holidays and evenings.
Invest in public transport, particularly the bus service to reduce traffic congestion	1	Improved bus services are important in maintaining sustainable communities and effective parking management. The responsibility for public transport rests with the Bus operators and Kent County Council.
Consultation timeframe is too short to allow all to contribute	1	The consultation period of 21 days is a statutory requirement and is set in the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedures) (England and Wales) 1996.
Public has already paid for roads - shouldn't be charged again for parking on them	1	The Council receives no funding from income raised by the Road Fund License for the management of its car parks. There are significant costs for the operation and enforcement of the car parks, and the effective management of town centre parking is vital to assist with the turn-over of spaces.
No mention of use for monies - so plan is punitive	1	There are significant costs for the operation and enforcement of the car parks.

1.4 Responses to proposals in Tonbridge

1.4.1 Summary of proposals

- no increase to the charge for parking for up to 30 minutes, remaining at 70 pence;
- an increase of 10 pence per hour on each parking tariff (up to a maximum tariff of £6.70);
- an increase of £20 (to £290) for 12 month off peak car park season tickets;
- an increase of £10 (to £120) for monthly car park season tickets;
- 3 monthly car park season tickets no longer offered;
- 6 monthly car park season tickets no longer offered;
- an increase of £70 (to £1020) for 12 month car park season tickets.

1.4.2 Responses

- Only one response was received.

Comment	Times Raised	Officer Response
Negative impact on shops and shoppers - prefer a decrease or alternatively introduce an hour free	1	Impact on businesses is taken into account when bringing forward proposals. The Council does not apply charges on Sundays, Bank holidays and evenings to support local businesses.

1.5 Responses to proposals in West Malling High Street

1.5.1 Summary of proposals

- no increase to the charge for parking for up to 30 minutes, remaining at 40 pence;
- an increase of 10 pence per hour for parking up to 3 hours;
- no increase to the charge for parking for up to 4 hours, remaining at £3.20.

1.5.2 Responses

Comment / Objection	times raised	Response
Detrimental impact on shops / business / displacement of shoppers to other locations/ Kings Hill / supermarkets / Bluewater etc	41	There are significant costs associated with the operation and enforcement of the car parks. The effective management of town centre parking is vital to assist the turn-over of spaces. The proposals do not represent significant increases.
Displacement of parking to local streets affecting residents	10	Residential streets in West Malling that are near to the town centre have in place on-street Resident Parking Permit schemes.
One parking machine not working for three months - long queues for other machine - often in the rain	1	There have been technical issues with the machines which are being addressed with the supplier. Machines will be replaced if necessary.
Impact on pensioners	1	There are no specific age-related concessions offered on parking charges, though we offer free parking for blue badge holders.
Introduce 20 mins free at school drop off/pick up to reduce impact on local streets	1	There is already provision for this - there are arrangements for a "walking bus" from the High Street car park in the morning, and the restrictions in the Ryarsh Lane car park end at 3pm to assist parent parking for school pick-up.
Support increase as this might stop commuters using car parks - but increase proportionally over 4 -5 hours	1	The introduction of an extended charging period (but at higher hourly rates) is something that may add more flexibility to parking arrangements, and may be looked at in any future review.

Comment / Objection	times raised	Response
Detrimental impact on local charity	1	There are significant costs for the operation and enforcement of the car parks. The effective management of town centre parking is vital to assist the turn-over of spaces.

1.6 Responses to proposals in Car Park, West Malling

1.6.1 Summary of proposals

- an increase of £80 (to £255) for 12 month car park season tickets.

1.6.2 Responses

Comment / Objection	times raised	Response
Steep increase on annual charges will impact on staff working in local business. (45%) (68%!) (400% over 4 years!!!)	19	Whilst a significant percentage increase is proposed, the charge is still less than £1 per day. This compares extremely favourably to prices for all-day parking at the station, and the parking charges in the short-stay car park.
Not sufficient parking permits for business	3	There is an existing waiting list for season tickets. We aim to release as many as possible to those on the waiting list, but this relies on current season ticket holders moving on and freeing-up the space.
Those working locally less well paid than those using station car park.	1	The proposed charge is less than £1 per day. This compares extremely favourably to prices for all-day parking at the station, and the parking charges in the short-stay car park.
Consider pay and display for shoppers here as car park has capacity	1	There is demand for long-stay parking in the town and the Ryarsh Lane car park is the only off-street facility the Council has that can meet that demand.

1.7 Proposals in Borough Green

1.7.1 Summary of proposals

- no increase to the charge for parking for up to 30 minutes, remaining at 20 pence;
- an increase of 10 pence on each further parking tariff, up to a maximum tariff of £5.30;

1.7.2 There were no responses relating to the proposals for Borough Green.

1.8 Proposals in Blue Bell Hill Commuter Car Park

1.8.1 Summary of proposals

- an increase of 20 pence (to £2.70) for daily parking;
- an increase of £2.00 (to £12) for weekly parking;
- an increase of £5 (to £40) for monthly car park season tickets;
- 3 monthly car park season tickets no longer offered;
- 6 monthly car park season tickets no longer offered;
- an increase of £120 (to £420) for 12 month car park season tickets.

1.8.2 There were no responses relating to the proposals for Blue Bell Hill

1.9 Proposals for Leybourne Lakes and Haysden Country Parks

1.9.1 Summary of proposals

- an increase of 20p (to £1.40) to the “up to 4 hour” tariff;
- an increase of £10 (to £50) for 12 month car park season tickets.

1.9.2 There were no responses relating to the proposals for Leybourne Lakes and Haysden Country Parks.

1.10 Consideration of Objections

1.10.1 The reasons and principles for the introduction of the proposed parking charges were outlined in the report to the October 2019 meeting of this Board.

1.10.2 The introduction and management of parking charges have proven effective in maintaining accessible short-stay parking and in managing demand for long-stay parking. This in turn assists in generating availability of spaces for short-stay shopping visits and people working in and commuting from the Borough.

1.10.3 Given the context of the parking charges proposals, it is recommended that Members note the responses received and set aside the objections.

1.11 Legal Implications

1.11.1 The consultation on the proposed parking charges followed the requirements of statutory regulations as detailed in sub-sections 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 of the report.

1.12 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.12.1 The proposed charges were reviewed within the context of a set of guiding principles, the cost of the parking service to the Council and ongoing investment in the parking management service.

1.13 Risk Assessment

1.13.1 The estimated additional income outlined in the report to the October 2019 meeting of this Board was modelled on the basis that future parking patterns and demand match current activity. It does not reflect any potential adverse customer reaction or the possibility of increased take up of the dual ticketing arrangement in Angel and Botany car parks.

1.14 Equality Impact Assessment

1.14.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.14.2 Blue Badge holders can park free of charge in the Council's car parks for up to 23 hours. The Blue Badge scheme has recently been extended by Central Government to include people with "hidden disabilities". This includes people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions.

1.15 Policy Considerations

1.15.1 Asset Management

1.15.2 Community

1.15.3 Customer Contact

1.16 Recommendations

1.16.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that it **APPROVE** the following actions to be progressed prior to the proposed parking charges outlined in the report coming into effect on 5th April 2020:-

- i) the objections to the proposed charges to the off-street parking charges, as detailed in the report, be set aside; and
- ii) the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order be made to facilitate the variation of the off-street parking charges.

Background papers:

contact: Andy Bracey

Annex 1 – Consultation “Intends” notice
Annex 2 – Redacted consultation responses

Parking Manager

Robert Styles
Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

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THE TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2020

Notice is hereby given that Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council intends to make the above Order under Sections 32 and 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be as per the Council's existing Off-Street Parking Places Order, save for the following changes;

In the town of Tonbridge,

- no increase to the charge for parking for up to 30 minutes, remaining at 70 pence
- an increase of 10 pence per hour on each parking tariff (up to a maximum tariff of £6.70)
- an increase of £20 (to £290) for 12 month off peak car park season tickets
- an increase of £10 (to £120) for monthly car park season tickets
- 3 monthly car park season tickets no longer offered
- 6 monthly car park season tickets no longer offered
- an increase of £70 (to £1020) for 12 month car park season tickets

In the town of West Malling,

High Street car park

- no increase to the charge for parking for up to 30 minutes, remaining at 40 pence
- an increase of 10 pence per hour for parking up to 3 hours
- no increase to the charge for parking for up to 4 hours, remaining at £3.20

Ryarsh Lane car park

- an increase of £80 (to £255) for 12 month car park season tickets

In the town of Borough Green

- no increase to the charge for parking for up to 30 minutes, remaining at 20 pence
- an increase of 10 pence on each further parking tariff, up to a maximum tariff of £5.30

In the village of Blue Bell Hill

- an increase of 20 pence (to £2.70) for daily parking
- an increase of £2.00 (to £12) for weekly parking
- an increase of £5 (to £40) for monthly car park season tickets
- 3 monthly car park season tickets no longer offered
- 6 monthly car park season tickets no longer offered
- an increase of £120 (to £420) for 12 month car park season tickets

Leybourne Lake and Haysden Country Parks

- an increase of 20p (to £1.40) to the "up to 4 hour" tariff
- an increase of £10 (to £50) for 12 month car park season tickets

A copy of the draft Order and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during normal working hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices, Kings Hill, West Malling or Tonbridge Castle and at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.

The proposed Order may also be viewed on www.tmbc.gov.uk/offstreetcharges

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write stating reasons, and quoting the name of the Order, by no later than 9th February 2020

If you have any questions concerning this notice, require further information or have difficulty in reading this notice, please contact, during normal office hours, the Parking Office tel: (01732) 844522, email: parking.office@tmbc.gov.uk or by post to;

The Parking Office, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council,
Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ.

Dated 17th January 2020

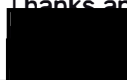
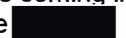
Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

For enquires relating to these proposals please contact Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on 01732 844522.

**CAR PARKING FEES & CHARGES
CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

ANNEX 2

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
128	Please dont increase the parking charges. It has already put off a lot of people visiting.	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges
378	We are already seeing shops closing and not being reopened by new businesses. How much more damage do you want to do to our dieing high streets...	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges
542	<p>The Council's plan constitutes yet another irrational and discriminatory effort to fleece the public. Several points are relevant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The consultation timeframe is short and likely to exclude many from offering contributions. 2. Notwithstanding that as members of the public who have entirely and already funded the laying of the roads, and therefore ought not to be charged further for using them or parking on them, the plan is manifestly only aimed at raising money, likely to be spent on yet more unwarranted civil servants. 3. Nowhere in the plan does it state that it is necessary to raise money for any legitimate purpose; thus the plan is intentionally punitive. 4. If the plan were to be applied then the Council would be charging for a service: 'ability to park near one's home', and that would also infer that in the event that residents had to park outside of Rose Street then the Council ought to repay residents each time they cannot use the street for which they had paid an exclusive higher fee to use, and thus ought to have a proportionately greater right, to use. 5. Accordingly, if, as residents, we were to endorse the plan, there would need to be practical benefits for us. However, as outlined above, in practice, charging higher parking permit fees does not increase any benefits to residents of Rose Street, because even in the event that all relevant households were to pay higher fees for three cars per household, then this does not alter the number of cars in the street – only the revenue gained from the scheme. 6. Regardless, if all households in Rose Street were to own three cars each – which they are entitled to - then there would not be sufficient spaces in the road anyway; thus the Council would be charging for a benefit that they cannot in principle or practice deliver, and that would be fraudulent. 7. A major part of the problem with parking in Rose Street arises due to people from other roads using the spaces. 8. It is wrong to seek to penalise individuals for being able only to afford to live in multi-shared households, which frequently necessitates two or three vehicles per household. 9. The Council's plan has not be rationalised, is unworkable, and is legally challengeable. 	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges
569	To add parking charges to the areas proposed will further drive shoppers to out of town retail parks further increasing the demise of local shopping areas. Local streets will then become the new car parks resulting in traffic restrictions and congestion.	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges
640	<p>Dear Sir</p> <p>I am replying to your request for commentary on behalf of the Plaxtol Parish Council.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
	<p>We would like to see an investment into the public transportation network such as local busses, to offset these increase costs. The higher charges make it harder for our parishioners to commute into these towns to conduct their work or to shop, and one reason for increasing the parking charges is to reduce traffic congestion and so make use of more public transport. However, in recent years we have seen a reduced level of public transport through our village and therefore we would like to see a commitment from yourself into the rural bus network so that the residents of outlying villages like ours may be able to commute into these towns for their business and hence reduce congestion.</p> <p>Thanks and regards </p>		
690	<p>Plenty of revenue coming in from council tax especially with all the new properties that have been built since I came to live here  ago, so I don't see why there is a need to increase parking charges let alone why they were introduced in the first place!</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges
691		Agree	Proposed changes to parking charges
695	<p>And you wonder why our high Streets are dying!</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges
732	<p>Across the Borough, TMBC is proposing taxing residents and local businesses with this ludicrous proposal. It will provide minimal increase in revenue but hugely inconvenience local residents who wish to use local services; and it will deter new comers. Just in case the team that has proposed these increases (and the diabolical proposal to introduce charges at Martin Square, Larkfield, which I also object to!) doesn't already realise, High Streets are DIEING on their feet!! What TMBC need to do is work with KCC and the Parish Council and Commerce, to INCREASE parking capacity in the town, increase footfall and increase -not limit! the time people spend in the town. I use the hairdressers and enjoy getting my nails done and having lunch, none of which you can do with any degree of certainty of parking! TMBC, KCC and the Parish Council must URGENTLY increase parking capacity. This is EASILY done adding extra levels and ramps to existing car parks (see Gravesend ASDA and Medway Maritime Hospital for examples where additional parking is provided at minimum cost, inconvenience and construction!) Use your imagination to solve these common town centre problems and not turn to additional taxing of residents and businesses!</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges
459	<p>Tonbridge High street is already suffering with lack of shops, and more shops going into administration. We should be encouraging people to support our high street instead of going elsewhere. Therefore I think the parking should be decreased or even an hour free to encourage people back to the high street. With the increasing costs I for one won't pay to park, so I don't use the towns supermarkets for big shops, I would rather go to aldi or lidl where the parking is free.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (Tonbridge)
119	<p>Businesses in West Malling are already struggling because of the new charges. By increasing them, you are only making the situation worse. I often shop in Snodland, to quickly stop and get odd bits. If charges are increased, I would just go to a supermarket instead, rather than risk running over the free period. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council is going the right way to ruin local business and High Streets.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
121	Ryarsh lane car park, is used to service mainly the people working within West Malling on minimum wage or low incomes. To raise the cost way beyond the rise of wages is ludicrous. You are only making it harder for the High Street to employ staff or pushing the problem out to the residential streets surrounding.	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
122	<p>The [REDACTED] address is not in your list.</p> <p>I have been parking in ryarsh car park on a daily basis for the past 20 years, and in that time I have seen a full car park go to half empty. While I am all for the introduction of parking permits to eliminate the parking issues, such as cars parking there to escape the train station parking fees in the past, the fee increase of almost 400% over recent years is ludicrous!, I dont know what business can increase their prices in that way in that time?...I need 3 permits and I simply cant justify or afford £765. I feel the last increase saw the decrease in permits being purchased and resolved the problem of too many permits being 'held on to', so why a further increase?...Furthermore, I have customers on an almost daily basis complaining they have been driving round for 20 min or so struggling to park, I am in no doubt, I am losing business due to customers not coming into the town because of the parking problems!..To add to my frustration, I see the ryarsh car park half empty every morning now, could you not introduce pay and display fees to non permit holders in ryarsh car park? At least customers will be able to park! The high street is struggling enough in today climate, with the likes of bluewater where parking is never a issue and online shopping...we need to make the town a welcoming place without this parking worry...and where businesses dont have the worry of even higher bills and the continued struggle to survive!</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
123	<p>Ever since parking charges have been introduced in West Malling, I have avoided using West Malling for significant shopping. I used to stop in the carpark on my way home and get my big food shop, buy birthday gifts from the smaller shops, flowers or chocolates, and maybe stop for a coffee in a cafe. Now because of the parking I just go on to Asda or Lunsford Tesco, because they can provide all these things with easy parking.</p> <p>A group of parents used to meet in West Malling for coffee fairly after dropping off their children at Offham school, but now we go to Spade works or Kings Hill for coffee because parking is easier - it's due to the charges.</p> <p>Even when people do pay to park, they are unlikely to linger, get a coffee, browse the shops because the time limit on their parking ticket stops this.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
124	<p>I live in the village and does not need parking for myself. However what made us choose this village in the first place was the quality of the shops on its High Street. We love our High Street and we do everything we can to support it but the inhabitants of West Malling are not enough and we need people from other villages to come and shop here to keep our High Street alive. If we increase the parking charges again, many people will stop shopping in West Malling.</p> <p>December was the fifth consecutive month with no growth as high street stores suffered particularly poor sales, showing the steepest fall for three years. We need to do everything we can to stop this, increasing parking fee is then totally illogical.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
136	<p>When all the shops in West Malling are empty the council will wake up.</p> <p>The charges, any charges are a cash tel, the high street looks a mess, the council let repairs go ahead to the road surface with the wrong coloured blocks, it look a mess, even the crossing marking has nearly worn off, who will take the responsibility when someone gets knocked down while walking across it.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
256	<p>We are a local charity doing lots of good work and fundraising in West Malling. The parking fees would have a detrimental affect to events we run and the income we raise through these.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
268	<p>West Malling - Ryarsh Lane season ticket increase is ridiculous!</p> <p>£175 to £255... 45% increase?!?</p> <p>Will just mean people, like me, who work in the area will not be able to afford a season ticket and will just park in local streets instead, which will in turn upset local residents, who will then hopefully vote out whoever made this ridiculous decision.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
428	<p>The Village has seen a drop in footfall since the introduction of parking charges. The proposed increase in charges will not create more parking it will just give the council more money. By Increasing the charges it stops customers coming to the village to browse the shops. They just come if they have a reason too. It would be better to try to find a new parking solution than drive the customers further away. Also increasing the car park charges for the Ryarsh Lane car park is only going to benefit the local council! It will push people out into the already congested surrounding roads. We need to be looking at ways to bring people to our lovely village rather than discouraging them.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
483	<p>I oppose further increases to the car parking charges in the High Street Car Park at West Malling. As anticipated when the charges were first imposed, they have had a detrimental impact on trade in the town, with people choosing to go elsewhere in the vicinity where they can park for free, e.g. Asda and Waitrose at Kings Hill, Tesco at Lunsford Park and Morrisons at Ditton. Also, if the proposal for a new Lidl store at Ditton goes ahead, there will probably be free parking there for customers.</p> <p>Town and village centres locally and nationally are already struggling because of high business rates and competition from online shopping and increasing parking charges will only exacerbate the problem.</p> <p>I would therefore ask that you think carefully before inflicting further damage on the health and viability of West Malling businesses.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
485	<p>I would like to strongly object to the proposed increases in parking charges in the West Malling High Street car parks. Parking was cited as a problem and partly instrumental in the decision to move almost all Doctor's appointments away from West Malling to Kings Hill. Over the last year 3 shops have become vacant and show no signs of being taken up by other businesses. I would imagine that any benefits from car parking</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
	<p>charges and the costs associated with maintaining the machines and collecting the money will have been easily offset by the reduction in Business Rate incomes from those properties. Unfortunately, West Malling is on the edge of the Borough so car parking charges in the Town make it a less attractive place to visit when there are so many free car parks within a 3 mile radius. Kings Hill Asda has free parking (for people shopping, eating, having a coffee or visiting the Doctor) as does Morrisons at Ditton and Tescos at Lunsford. West Malling cannot compete with these destinations when each visit here imposes the extra cost of any parking...let alone an increase. Footfall in the Town has markedly decreased since parking charges were imposed and unless the Town is halted from this downward spiral other shops and businesses will follow suit and move elsewhere. I hope you will think long and hard as to whether your long term objective is best served by further decimating trade and prosperity in West Malling Town</p>		
517	<p>The council has already removed the first two hours free parking in the car park behind Tesco's. West Malling now has two long frontage shops empty. Any further charges may deter shoppers with the result that Boots the Chemist and Tesco could find further foot fall and consider there shops uneconomic. Please do not introduce further charges.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
567	<p>Hiking one of the yearly charges from £175 to £255 per annum? What, why? When inflation and wage increases are effectively 0...what possible reason can there be for doing this other than to generate more funds (which I assume will fill a hole somewhere else) and to introduce private enterprise into the monetization of car parks?</p> <p>I live near and use West Malling a lot - but I walk. I only park there is it is business and I am able to claim it as an expense - otherwise I would choose to go somewhere else and not support my local town. This has the net effect that I dont pass the pubs, or flower shop (etc) as much or make an impromptu purchase that hep keep these businesses alive.</p> <p>IF TMBC were able to point to a need for the car parks to be 'renovated' I would still disagree...but you cannot even lean on that reason as, to my knowledge, they all allow the parking of cars.</p> <p>If these funds were then ring-fenced to fix local infrastructure (aka roads with an increasing number of huge potholes in the area), I wouldn't support it...but it would make more sense at least, but equally that isnt being proposed.</p> <p>All this does is further the squeeze on local people, dissuade people from any local shopping and introduce private finance into another area of public life.</p> <p>Also - do you realise that money is all made up? As in, our central bank (BoE) prints money on a daily basis - it materialises out of thin air and is underpinned by nothing - it is a Fiat currency underpinned by no material worth.</p> <p>All councils and relatively middle-managed places such as this achieve, by implementing more and more charges to the daily lives of people, is to further push people into financial difficulty and the need to work longer, harder and faster.</p> <p>It solves nothing and will have zero effect on the bigger issues whilst making the lives of ordinary folk immeasurably less liveable over the course of time. Even the 70>80p increase in West Malling...it may not sound a lot...but a year on year increase of 14% will (and have) become normal in so many areas of public life. What starts now will continue and will eventually become a significant issue for many people - affecting the most vulnerable first.</p> <p>Please do not proceed with introducing new charges where presently there are none.</p> <p>Please, in areas where charges already exist, cap the increase to inflation or inflation +1% (MAX).</p> <p>And please, in all areas affected, consider introducing a 30/45 minute 'free' parking time - it will allow at least the most in need to collect prescriptions, see a doctor or run a short errand without making it a costly exercise.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
674	<p>We run a business in the High Street, West Malling and we, as owners, offer parking for our employees as parking in West Malling is rapidly diminishing. We are not some big corporate company (in fact most business are small independent companies in the High Street) and the increase in the parking charges is and could be crippling to some companies. The rise in the charges is appalling. If you want people to visit/work in West Malling to continue the place to thrive - you are doing your best to ensure that does not happen - WE OBJECT STRONGLY</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
675	<p>The system does not allow our business address which is ridiculous [REDACTED] We have 7 staff and we currently pay for 3 parking permits and have been on a waiting list for a long time for a 4th. We are a small independent business and rely on our staff to be able to park and we pay for this each year. Such an increase in parking affects our ability to pay for such - an increase on such a level for business' that rely on parking is extortionate. Parking is bad enough in West Malling and if the charges increase to a level that is not economic for a business then staff will start using the surrounding roads which we are sure will not please current residents.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
676	<p>Already frustrating to pay for using your local high street and already avoid using now when possible and head to bigger supermarket sites or shopping centres with free parking. Especially when I don't have change available.</p> <p>Shame there isn't a school drop off/pick up free 20 mins to encourage parents to walk children part way to school at local car parks to school e.g. West Malling high street. It makes parking near the school impossible because everyone uses those spaces to not pay for parking in car parks. West Malling school car park near the cricket ground is always full from commuters and local business workers to avoid costs and puts pressure and danger for the primary school children</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
677	<p>On behalf of The West Malling Chamber of Commerce, we are objecting to the proposed increased charges to both the Business Ryarsh Lane car park plus the public car park behind Tesco. Due to a declining footfall and sales in West Malling since the car park charges were introduced to the public car park, we have had three long established businesses close within a 12 month period, The Cook Shop (approx. 5 years trading) The Fishing Tackle Shop (over 20 years trading) and Martins Newsagents (over 30 years trading) not one of the units has been taken up for rent, they all remain empty. As retailers we are competing with a number of elements, including internet shopping, large shopping centres with free parking, i.e. Bluewater. So for the T&MBC to increase the public parking this will further discourage shoppers from visiting WM also it will reduce the time they spend shopping in our small independent shops. This proposal is in complete contrast to Boris Johnson's pledged to 'Save the Great British High Street'. Regarding the proposed increase of 57% on the Ryarsh Business Car Park, this is a totally unmanageable increase for the small independent businesses and their staff, it will also discourage employment in the Town businesses. Sadly West Malling will become a ghost town if the T&MBC continue to put up barriers to visitors who want convenience and ease to use and support their local High Street. The Chamber of Commerce urge the T&MBC to reconsider on both counts. Regards [REDACTED] Secretary, The West Malling Chamber of Commerce.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
679	<p>Parking charges are killing West Malling as clearly demonstrated by the increasing number of empty shops. The charges also drive cars to park in the residential streets behind the High street.</p> <p>This is a shortsighted reaction to budget pressure that will cause far greater long term issues.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
681	<p>Business has already seriously suffered as a result of parking charges in West Malling. Whilst in Tonbridge Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Iceland can offer one or two hours parking refund depending on amount spent I understand that Tesco are not allowed to do that in West Malling , even though, as I understand it, they own part of the car park !!. It should be a level playing field should it not. As far as charging in Martin Square and Snodland is concerned I can only ask if the council are deliberately trying to ruin local businesses !</p> <p>My wife and I are retired and have never had any connection with any business in the areas mentioned.</p> <p>Let's hope that the council listens to the people and the local politians that oppose these plans before even more local businesses cease trading.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
683	<p>Councils are treating motorists as a cash cow. I have always used my local high street, but now enough is enough. There are shopping centres with free parking close enough for residents to use as an alternative, Bluewater and Hempstead Valley spring to mind.</p> <p>Local shops are struggling to survive and councils seem determined to kill them off.</p> <p>The rise in the Ryarsh lane car Park will punish the very workers who are struggling to survive in this toxic retail environment.</p> <p>The council should be encouraging people to use the local high street not punishing both visitors and workers alike.</p> <p>What will the council do when the golden goose is finally dead?!</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
684	<p>I see this change as likely to be detrimental to the shops and businesses in West Malling, several of which have already closed. I already avoid the car park behind Tesco whenever possible.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
685	<p>Having worked in West Malling for over 30 years I have parked in Ryarsh Lane Car park and as such have paid the parking fees since their inception. It has gone from £75.00 to a proposed £255.00 per year which I find ridiculous. If I remember correctly these increases have occurred over three years but I could be mistaken. As I am sure that you are aware, businesses in West Malling are already struggling and many have closed down in recent months. I feel that to add further cost to them by upward spiraling parking costs is just yet another nail in the coffin of West Malling.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
687	<p>The business car park doesn't guarantee a space after 8.30 sadly. This can cause problems when I have a client service timed list to work to. I would like to get another parking permit for a staff member as they experience verbal and threatening abuse from local residence and at the new charge could not afford 2 spaces as we are only a small business.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
689	<p>The council should consider adopting a policy of 'no charge' for the first 30 minutes in all of its car parks. This would promote a higher turnover/availability rate and encourage a good proportion of people to consolidate their shopping needs and free up their parking space sooner, especially if they are needing only a few items of shopping or to quickly visit a bank, post office, etc. I believe this will be welcomed by residents, particularly at smaller shopping venues such as West Malling and Martin Square.</p> <p>In West Malling, such a policy could greatly increase turnover for the shops if it was applied to the parking spaces in the High Street where the current limit is one hour.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
692	<p>When most of the shops in West Malling will be closed because of any new car parking charges made, Tonbridge & Malling Council will be pleased.</p> <p>I totally object to any increase in the charges, as a local resident I have seen the shops come & go over the last 54 years, the car parking charge will certainly kill off more of the smaller businesses . People will not stop when they know that money / card has to be found to stop for a few hours. It's just a cashtel for the council, I would not mind but our roads are a total disgrace, even when the high street is dug up, they replace the blocks in a different colour, the Romans must be laughing at our appalling look of our roads, I will not mention the Pot Holes, that's another story.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
694	<p>Please don't increase car parking charges in West Malling. People are choosing not to shop there because of the charges and several shops have closed down. We want to maintain a vibrant community but this will not happen without shops.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
697	<p>I object to the proposal to increase the annual parking charges at the Ryarsh Lane Car park in West Malling. I understand that this car park is used primarily by businesses in the high street. We already have a number of empty shops in the high street and the number is increasing. Anything which increases costs for business in the high street will decrease the chances of empty units being filled and make things more difficult for those already operating there. It would make more sense to decrease the charge for annual passes in this car park to encourage business into the area.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
701	<p>The parking charges have had a significant impact on trade in West Malling already. £3.20 for 4 hours is far too much, considering the small variety of shops we have in comparison to bigger towns like Sevenoaks or Maidstone. If people want to come to shop and then stay for lunch, they were far more likely to do this when the car park was free. Putting the price up is simply not good for our village. I have never put one penny in the machines. If I need to drive to the centre for shopping, I will only use on street parking. If I cannot find a space, I go elsewhere. I refuse to put money in the machines, because I totally disagree with the charges. I know I am not alone in this. And people who are not local do not come to shop with us as much because of the charges. Please do not increase the charges again.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
703	<p>As a small business owner we object grossly to the increased charges at both the car park in West Malling for our customers and the Ryarsh Lane Business Permit car park. This will have a detrimental effect on our business, our staff and our customers. We implore you to reconsider and help support our dying high street rather than infringe extra charges, otherwise our business will die. We are a main post office and offer a public service, a lifeline to our local and rural community, please do not kill it.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
704	<p>As a small business owner we object grossly to the increased charges at both the car park in West Malling for our customers and the Ryarsh Lane Business Permit car park. This will have a detrimental effect on our business, our staff and our customers. We implore you to reconsider and help support our dying high street rather than infringe extra charges, otherwise our business will die. We are a main post office and offer a public service, a lifeline to our local and rural community, please do not kill it.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
711	<p>We own two shops in the High Street, we inherited four parking permits at Ryarsh Lane car park and have over the years reduced that to one, what justification is there for an £80 uplift to the annual parking charge?</p> <p>In real terms, I have Calculated that I have to make an additional seven sales per week at a time when fewer people are coming to the high street, not more. With the increased parking charges across the town, is this a realistic proposition? No. When charges were first introduced there was a considerable downturn in sales which have not to date picked up.</p> <p>You are closer to government and are therefore fully aware of the pressures for anyone in retail, are aware of the falling sales in every high street across the country, are fully aware of the amount of empty premises in our own high street of West Malling and surely must be aware that there will be more closures to come. As our elected representatives, I would expect you to do everything in your power to protect our interests rather than undermine them.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
712	<p>We need to support local business in West Malling High Street. We get some fantastic shops opening only to close as business fails due to lack of customers. Its nearly impossible to park there at the moment and the charges just make it even more problematic and difficult. Its just easier to go to Blue Water where parking is free. We have some vacant shops in West Malling at the moment - making customer parking easier and free would help enormously in filling these spaces and thus bringing more custom into the Town. It needs variety so that people don't just come for one thing but come for several things to make it worth while</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
714	<p>I object to the permit increases. I object to the hourly rate increases, unless a contactless facility is added to all parking machines.</p> <p>We do not want to use park mobile. Park mobile's service is awful. I'd rather not use west malling car park, and use businesses in Maidstone instead.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
722	<p>Current parking fees,(to which I objected when it commenced) have seriously impacted West Malling businesses.</p> <p>In other boroughs an hours free parking is often found and seems to work well. TMBC should actively study this approach.</p> <p>Increasing the charges will exacerbate the problem.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
724	<p>We regularly use West Malling for shopping but due to proposed increased car parking charges will now be using other close locations where car parking is free.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
729	<p>West Malling is a historic Georgian High Street which attracts local shoppers, ramblers, Kent folk from surrounding and outer lying areas as well as a few tourists. The High Street has always had a good mix of independent shops, service providers, estate agents pubs and restaurants.</p> <p>Since the parking charges have been implemented there have been some notable closures of independent traders as well as locals either reducing the time of their visits or finding alternatives. A further increase will not help this situation and could substantially change the character of this beautiful place.</p> <p>Alternatively, if the Council continue with this plan, which we all know they will. Perhaps they may like to consider the way they collect the charge. At the moment, the charge is collected on arrival which means you have to calculate how long you will be in the village. Many times I have had an appointment of some kind with the intention of shopping in the village afterwards but for various reasons the appointment has run late or been much longer than expected and I have had to make alternative shopping plans. This means valuable trade has been lost and I am only one person. Also, if you meet up with friends during the day at a pub or restaurant again their service speed can depend on whether you all have a mini shopping trip with your friends afterwards. How many people are doing this everyday? If you could pay once you had finished off your trip how you want to, our dear beloved Council would receive more income as well as our local traders.</p> <p>██████████</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
731	<p>Once car parking charges are introduced the inevitable happens , as we see now. These charges are increased to provide a cash cow for the local councils. If on my short shopping trips to West Malling I can not find a free space in the high street I carry on driving and shop elsewhere. It is the local traders who will lose out. I refuse to pay for something that used to be free.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
733	<p>I work for a small business within West Malling and currently have a annual parking permit for The Ryarsh Lane Carpark. Employees rely on the permit to be able to park for the whole day whilst at work. As a small business this increase (of over 45%),per permit, will impact greatly on whether they can now afford to provide permits to employees. If they decide they cannot and employees themselves cannot afford this, this will inevitably mean employees will have to park in other areas of West Malling (i.e non permit residential areas). This then creates issues within the residential parking areas, but quite frankly employees of any small business within the area will have no other choice.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
735	<p>It is discouraging to business and to visitors, potentially leading to more decline in West Malling (and elsewhere), whilst encouraging people to use parking free alternatives. Please do not do this.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
744	<p>The price increase to the business car park is ridiculous. I work for a small company in the High Street in West Malling and we have 3 permits. The increase will be a high cost to my company and as an employee may have to look for alternative parking with the increase which in very hard to find in this town anyway for a whole day.</p> <p>People have to work within the town to generate business which is already decreasing with the number of empty shops and will only decrease further with high parking charges.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
746	<p>The new proposed business car park on the A20 is too far from our business, we have to transport delicate cakes to the Tea Room, we could not walk them from there.</p> <p>We are on the waiting list for the Ryarsh Lane business car park, the £80 increase in the annual charge would prevent us from parking there, it is a 45.7% increase. We could not as a very small business sustain that.</p> <p>The increase in car parking charges behind Tesco, that will serve to kill the high street even more than it is. With high streets struggling generally, and 4 shops having closed in the past year, surely businesses need more help attracting customers. All these proposals can only serve to harm the current businesses who are struggling to keep going.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
751	<p>In my opinion, charging any amount for parking at West Malling high street will help kill the high street. There are already a number of shop premises that remain empty. These small shops rely on footfall to exist. Increasing the charges only adds salt to the wound. People will continue to go to out of town shops where the parking is free.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
755	<p>The parking charges that were introduced in West Malling have certainly reduced the number of times I visit West Malling especially if I only want to do one or two quick jobs like drop something off at the dry cleaners or pop into Boots or the bank or post office. I do not object to paying for a longer stay but the first half hour should be free like the car park in Otford. This would encourage me and others to return to West Malling for these quick stops - instead I go up to Kings Hill and use the shops in the commercial centre there where parking is accessible and free</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
762	<p>As the largest business in West Malling high street we employ just under 100 staff and the business is growing by the day. The majority of our staff travel by car to work as well as client meetings and the need for a parking space is vital. When we have staff that leave, this reduces the number of permits. We have a car park at the back of the business premises which accommodates 37 spaces for our staff which as you can see is nowhere near enough for the amount of staff that are employed. Currently we have 23 employees on the waiting list for Ryarsh car park as well as a handful of employees who walk to work. This also causes us problems when employing potential new staff as we cannot guarantee them a parking space or off street parking. We currently have 19 parking permits which will reduce to 11 by the end of June 2020.</p> <p>With regards to the proposed annual season car parking charge from £175 to £255 we feel that an increase of 68% is not warranted and unjustified. With Ryarsh Lane being the only the long stay business car park in West Malling this is the preferred car park for our employees.</p> <p>Due to the parking restrictions enforced by the council this could have a negative effect when our lease is due for renewal. We would welcome your feedback.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

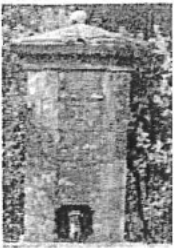
ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
766	I wish to strongly object to the increase in parking charges in West Malling. This rise will be just another nail in the coffin of small business. There are currently at least 2 shops empty and the increase in charges will discourage more people from visiting the town. The council should be looking to do all it can to encourage people to visit rather than making it more expensive.	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
769	<p>Regardless of the fact that I have spent some time trying, but failing, to unearth the Council's reasons through the labyrinthine paper trail, I am quite clear in submitting this objection to the proposed increase in charges.</p> <p>My wife and I moved to West Malling [REDACTED] ago with a view to down sizing our accommodation in advancing years. At that time, parking in West Malling was free, but charges were introduced soon after our arrival. Given the opportunity, as pensioners, we would have objected then to that imposition and we certainly wish to do so now.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
815	<p>These comments are intended for the parking consultation relating to West Malling.</p> <p>Would it be possible to give the first hour free in the Tesco Car Park in the same way that you can park for free in the High Street for one hour. Someone who lives outside the town centre who wants to pop into the village to buy a few items and only stay for a very short period has to pay 40p. If they do this daily it puts an extra £2.40 on their shopping bill. This does not encourage people to shop in the town but instead go to Kings Hill where they can park completely free.</p> <p>The system whereby the number plate has to be on the ticket also takes a huge amount of time, especially when one of the ticket machines is out of order which often happens.</p> <p>In many places cardboard time 'clocks' are used; a time is set on the clock so a parking attendant can see if the free parking period has been exceeded, this could be introduced on the high St where the 1 hour limit is abused.</p> <p>It is hard to understand why parking is charged during the day and not of an evening. It seems that the shops pay while pubs and restaurants get mostly free parking. Surely the Council should encourage trade for both.</p> <p>The number of empty shops does nothing for the town.</p> <p>The council has to raise money where they can, but encouraging traders to the town is important for the long term prosperity of the community.</p> <p>Could we replace the current ticket machines with those you see in other car parks where you collect a token or ticket on entry and pay to leave the car park. No lengthy system to register the number plate, no entry to the car park unless a space is available so avoiding queues.</p> <p>This might allow people to stay longer than 4 hours but short stays could be encouraged by making long stays very expensive and re-entry avoided by the number plate recognition cameras.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
816	<p>I live in West Malling, walking distance to the High Street so do not need to use the car park that often, but still object to the increases as I have seen a drop in the use of the High Street Car park since charges were introduced. Also more cars stop where they should not if they are only going to be a short while or dropping or picking someone up. So even the rise in the 1/2 hour stay is not good. The business car park has also been used less since the last increase and people use the zoned areas instead leaving less spaces for people like us who buy the yearly permit as the lane we live in is single file so if it is going to be blocked during the day and we need the car we have to park on the road in advance. The Council needs to keep small towns and businesses alive, keep a community not drive it out and leave empty shops.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling)
771	<p>I live in East Malling and work from home. I regularly do errands during my lunch break and might visit several places with the proposed parking charges during my short lunch break. Just this Thursday I visited Aylesford and St Martins Sq. Not only would this have meant a 40p charge (2x20p) but a great deal of time wasted. For this reason I never visit central West Malling, even though it is under 1 mile from my house, because I have to waste time walking to the machine and back and completing all that registration number etc.</p> <p>I really like supporting the local independent shops but will not continue to do so if I am wasting time buying tickets.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] Please reconsider your proposal and even scrap the parking charges in West Malling.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling, Martin Square car park, Aylesford car parks)
817	<p>I wish to object to the proposed increase in car parking charges in West Malling.</p> <p>High Street Car Park</p> <p>I quote from your consultation document:</p> <p>"1.17. Existing Free to Use Car Parks</p> <p>1.17.2 The introduction of car parking charges in West Malling generated significant public and media interest, with concerns expressed by residents and shop owners over the potential impact on the economic viability of the town, and the possibility of cars parking in residential streets nearby rather than paying to park.</p> <p>These concerns have not materialised... "</p> <p>That is not true - the introduction of charges led to an immediate reduction in revenue for shopkeepers, and the Cook Shop, Country Sports Shop, Baldocks and the Newsagents are all now empty, as are a number of shops in the Abbey Arcade. There has been an obvious increase in the number of cars parked on residential streets, to the extent that I can no longer access my driveway from the West Malling Town direction because of an increase in cars parked opposite.</p> <p>It is also the case that the revenue obtained from the High Street car park (roughly £160,000), together with the present level of revenue from Ryarsh Lane permits (£26,250) greatly exceed the £80,000 cost of maintaining both the High Street and Ryarsh Lane car parks. I urge the Borough Council to allow free car parking for the first one or two hours - this would encourage more visitors to the town and a greater throughput in the car park, yet still provide sufficient revenue for the Borough Council to cover their costs.</p> <p>Ryarsh Lane car park</p> <p>The proposed annual increase from £175 to £255 represents a 45.7% increase. The quoted justification of the comparison with the charges at the railway station are fallacious - commuters to London enjoy London wages which, even with the cost of season tickets, far outweigh the earning power of those workers in West Malling who use the Ryarsh Lane car park.</p>	Object	Proposed changes to parking charges (West Malling, Ryarsh Lane), Martin Square car park, concessions within car parks, enforcement and resident permit parking

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
	<p>These proposals - for the High Street and Ryarsh Lane car parks - will again further threaten the viability of the town, which will, in turn, reduce the amount of money which the Borough receives in Business Rates and hence be counterproductive.</p> <p>Diabetic Eye Screening Special measures are proposed in Paragraph 1.20 for waiving charges for use of blood transfusion and breast screening vehicles. I shall be grateful if similar consideration could be given to the voluntary diabetic eye clinic screening van which has hitherto attended the car park at West Malling surgery a few times each year. The sale of the West Malling surgery premises means that this will not be possible in future, with the van having to park at Kings Hill unless alternative arrangements can be made locally. The screening service states that patients must not drive to or from their appointments as their vision is affected by the screening, which will therefore adversely affect West Malling patients who can currently walk to the screening van. An alternative location in the a Tesco car park would solve this problem.</p> <p>Enforcement A problem with the present system is the low level of enforcement since there are only 11 full time traffic wardens across the whole Borough. If additional car parks have Charges, the need for enforcement will be even greater. Nowhere does the report say that additional traffic wardens will be appointed, although the need for this is mentioned in paragraph 1.2.2.</p> <p>Permits for residents' parking I understand that all renewals for permits within residents' parking schemes must now be done online. I would have thought that this change should have been incorporated into this Consultation. It will adversely affect the many people, especially the elderly, who do not have the Internet and are not familiar with using it.</p>		

ID	Comment	Agree / Object	Pertaining to
490	<p>Please be aware that I do support parking fees as I get very frustrated particularly in West Malling High Street that I can never park and this prevents me from visiting my local village.</p> <p>I feel by charging it will stop people using the car park for alternative reasons e.g. commuting.</p> <p>However, the first hour or at least half hour should be free of charge.</p> <p>And charges imposed thereafter should be of a fair price raising more substantially if you stay longer than 4-5 hours.</p> <p>If car park charges are imposed to high this will impact on the local businesses that are already struggling.</p> <p>Please note that I visited West Malling Car park in the last week and both the car parking payment machines were out of order. I was able to call up and pay and then downloaded the app. BUT, I could see older people getting in a state and they may not be in a position to do as I did. Out of order payment machines may stop potential customers supporting our local shop keepers, so this is a matter which needs addressing too.</p> <p>Also I am not sure where the shop keepers and their staff park ? Permits or arrangements for their parking must be considered too.</p>	Agree	Proposed charges to parking charges (West Malling)

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**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

This e-mail is confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of West Malling Parish Council. If you are not the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this e-mail in error and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify West Malling Parish Council on telephone +44 (0)1732 870872 or email clerk@westmallingspc.org

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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Item JTB 20/4 referred from Joint Transportation Board minutes of 9 March 2020

JTB 20/4 ON STREET PARKING FEES AND CHARGES

The report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services sought approval to progress a formal exercise with regard to on-street parking fees and charges across the Borough. It was noted that the formal consultation would be undertaken from 3 to 26 April 2020.

RECOMMENDED: That the formal consultation on the proposed on-street parking fees and charges be progressed as outlined in sub-sections 1.2 and 1.3 of the report.

***Referred to Cabinet**

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TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

09 March 2020

Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Matters For Decision

1 ON-STREET PARKING FEES AND CHARGES

Summary

This report seeks approval to progress a formal consultation exercise with regard to on-street parking fees and charges across the Borough.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 At the October 2019 meeting of the Street Scene and Environment Services Advisory Board Members considered and recommended to Cabinet a number of proposed changes to on-street parking fees and charges.
 - 1.1.2 The proposed charges are detailed in the advertisement shown at **Annex 1**, and Members will note the proposed introduction of a rising scale of charges for those parking more than two cars in the road.
 - 1.1.3 At the 6th January 2020 meeting of the Council's Cabinet the proposed on street charges were approved for consultation, setting in-train the processes for the making of appropriate Traffic Regulation Orders.
 - 1.1.4 The Borough Council carries out parking enforcement under an Agency agreement with Kent County Council by way of a Traffic Regulation Order, under the terms of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (and its amendments), the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.
 - 1.1.5 The statutory process for making a Traffic Regulation Order requires that the Council undertakes a formal consultation on the proposed changes, and is described in the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedures)(England and Wales) 1996.
 - 1.1.6 The agreed forum for the promotion of a new on-street Traffic Regulation Order and the consideration of any objections is the Joint Transportation Board.
- #### 1.2 Proposed Charges – Formal Consultation
- 1.2.1 As part of the formal consultation process, the following actions will be progressed, inviting comments or objections;

- notices will be placed in each on-street Pay & Display area by each pay and display machine;
- adverts will be placed in the local media;
- letters will be sent to every Member of this Council;
- letters will be sent to all statutory consultees (Police, Fire, Bus operators etc.); and
- the consultation documents will be placed “on-deposit” for inspection at the Council Offices in Kings Hill and at Tonbridge Castle.

1.2.2 The consultation documents will also be placed on the Council’s website, and in line with the Council’s new Digital Strategy residents will be able to respond online for the first time.

1.3 Timetable

1.3.1 It is proposed that formal consultation will start on 13th March for 21 days, finishing on 5th April 2020.

1.3.2 The responses to this consultation will be analysed and fully reported to the June 2020 meeting of this Board. The Board will make recommendations to the Borough Council’s Cabinet. Subject to Cabinet, and the Sealing of the Order by Kent County Council, the revised charges should be introduced in mid-July 2020.

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 The powers allowing the Borough Council to carry out parking management activity are contained in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, supplemented by formal agreement with Kent County Council as the Local Highway Authority, in respect of its powers under the Traffic Management Act 2004. In particular, section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation 1984 Act imposes a general duty on local authorities exercising functions under the Act to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of safe and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway.

1.4.2 Changes to parking charges are made via an Amendment Orders to the Council’s on and off-street parking Traffic Regulation Orders, using the procedures set out in the Local Authorities’ Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 The review of the on-street car parking fees and charges was progressed within the context of a set of guiding principles, the cost of the parking service to the Council and ongoing investment in the parking management service. Details were

reported to the September 2019 meeting of the Street Scene & Environment Advisory Board.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 None

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

1.7.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7.2 Blue Badge holders can park free of charge in the Council's car parks for up to 23 hours. For Blue Badge holders living in a parking permit area, a Resident Parking Permit is not required as long as the valid Blue Badge and clock is correctly displayed. The Blue Badge scheme has recently been extended by Central Government to include people with "hidden disabilities". This includes people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions.

1.8 Policy Considerations

1.8.1 Asset Management

1.8.2 Community

1.8.3 Customer Contact

1.9 Recommendations

1.9.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that consultation for the proposed on-street parking fees and charges be progressed, as outlined in sub-sections 1.2 and 1.3 of this report.

Background papers:

Annex 1 – Copy of proposed charges

contact: Andy Bracey
Parking Manager

Robert Styles

Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

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**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, TONBRIDGE AND MALLING) (WAITING
RESTRICTIONS AND ON-STREET PARKING PLACES)
(AMENDMENT 32) ORDER 2020**



Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council intends to make the above Order, under Section 1, 2, 35, 36, 45, 46, 47, 49, 53, 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, the effect of which will be the alteration of parking tariffs and charges.

The tariff items and charges to be changed are as follows (no other alterations are proposed);

In the Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

On-Street Pay & Display and 'Pay by Phone'

Tariff	Type	Time period	Current Charge	New charge
T1.1	On-street pay & display	Up to 30 minutes	70p	70p
		Up to 1 hour	£1.30	£1.40
		Up to 2 hours	£2.30	£2.50
		Up to 3 hours	£3.10	£3.40

On-street parking permits

Tariff	Type	Current Charge	New charge
T2	Resident's on-street permit	1 st permit per household £40 per year	1 st permit per household £45 per year
		2 nd permit per household £40 per year	2 nd permit per household £45 per year
		3 rd permit per household £40 per year	3 rd permit per household £90 per year
		4 th and more permit per household £40 per year	4 th and more permit per household £135 per year
T3	Business on-street permit	£160 per year	£175 per year

Dispensations

Tariff	Type	Current Charge	Proposed charge
T7.1	Discretionary dispensation permit AZT for essential carers	£50	£25
T7.3	Discretionary dispensation permit PM for property maintenance vehicles (valid in any Tonbridge residents permit bay)	£160	£175
T7.4	Discretionary dispensation permit PMY for property maintenance vehicles (valid in any Tonbridge residents permit bay and on yellow lines where loading and unloading is not prohibited in Tonbridge High Street)	£160	£175
T7.5	Discretionary dispensation permit THB for vehicles carrying out regular cash banking activities (valid on yellow lines adjacent to banking facilities where loading and unloading is not prohibited in Tonbridge High Street for a maximum of 20 minutes)	£160	£175
T7.6	Discretionary dispensation permit for commercial purposes (such as building works)	£10 per day, £30 per week	£10 per day, £40 per week

A copy of the draft Order and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during normal working hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices,

Kings Hill, West Malling or Tonbridge Castle and at the Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent.

The proposed Order may also be viewed on www.tmbc.gov.uk/onstreetcharges

Anyone wishing to support these proposals, or object to them, should write stating reasons, and quoting the name of the Order by 5th April 2020 to;

The Parking Office, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ.

Dated 13th March 2020

Barbara Cooper
Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and
Transport
Kent County Council,
County Hall,
Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ

For enquires relating to these proposals please contact Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council on 01732 844522.