

**CAR PARKING CHARGES IN WEST MALLING
FORMAL CONSULTATION – SUMMARY OF RESPONSES**

Response Received	Number of times mentioned	Officer Comment
Parking times should be limited to 2 hours	2	Operational experience of the car park would support a limit of 3 hours.
Parking charges should be introduced as this will free-up short-stay parking	2	This is a core objective of the proposal.
Parking in West Malling car park for £5 a day will allow station commuters	1	The proposed maximum stay for parking would be for 3 hours.
The public notice proposes charging to 6pm, but the Council's lease is only until 5:30pm	1	This is correct and the proposal will be amended to reflect operating hours between 8am - 5.30pm.
It is noted that the formal consultation on the proposals for a residents parking scheme on Offham Road ran from 22nd Jan to 21st Feb - a longer period of consultation - the truncated period of consultation is contrary to the Gunning principle that adequate time is given for consultation and response.	1	The consultation period was in accordance with statutory guidance (minimum of 21 days).
Parking charges should not be introduced into Snodland as this will deter shoppers	1	This is not part of the proposal to amend the Off-street parking Traffic Regulation Order.
Parking charges should not be introduced into Larkfield as this will deter shoppers	1	This is not part of the proposal to amend the Off-street parking Traffic Regulation Order.
Parking charges should not be introduced in to West Malling as this will deter shoppers, visitors and users of the community facilities	11	The proposals aim to improve accessibility in the short stay car park as fewer spaces should be occupied by long-stay parking.
Parking charges in the Tesco car park will displace parking to the residential streets	2	It is felt that the level of charges proposed should not deter shoppers from using the car park.

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It is unclear whether the introduction of charges is to manage parking or to raise income	1	The purpose of the charges is to both manage parking and assist in off setting costs.
It is against Government advice to ask Councils to look at mitigating car parking charges to help towns thrive	1	The purpose of the charges is to manage parking, where other methods have failed to be effective.
There has been no consultation with the surrounding parishes	1	The consultation was advertised in the Kent Messenger which covers surrounding Parishes.
Introducing charges could lead to further charges at weekends, night-time etc.	1	It is not the Borough Council's intention to introduce evening or Sunday charges at this time, but this could be subject to future review.
The documentation states "the decisions have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users" but this is disputed.	1	The proposals should improve accessibility as fewer spaces should be occupied by long-stay parking. The proposals do not reduce the level of provision provided and do not disadvantage any particular group.
The car parking charges paper to PTAB on 16 Jan 2016 stated there was abuse of the short-stay parking time limits, but reviewing the TPT cases this does not seem correct.	1	The high number of PCNs issued for "no correct ticket" (which includes tickets with wrong registrations) supports the Council's view.
The Council says that the existing registration number "take and display" system is open to abuse but this should not be the case as repeat offenders can be easily penalised.	1	The system cannot prevent similar registrations from being entered as they may be for different vehicles.
The Council has not considered any alternatives to the proposed course of action, and the Council has refused to allow the Parish Council adequate time to consider and formulate alternatives they may wish to propose.	1	Alternative approaches have been considered and implemented in the past but have not been effective. The views of the Parish Council have been incorporated into the consultation.
Despite requests from the Parish Council, facts, figures and costs in relation to the short stay car park have not been provided to the consultees, making it impossible for them to properly judge the Council's proposal and suggest alternative courses of action	1	A significant number of requests have been received from the Parish Council and its individual members, all of which have been/are being responded to in a timely manner.

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The Borough's proposals have come out of the blue, having not been discussed or developed by the Parking Review Steering Group.	1	The Council has fully consulted on the proposals including a meeting with the Steering Group and presentations at full Council by the Parish Council and Chamber of Commerce.
The Council's PTAB resolved to recommend to the Cabinet that the charges for long and short-stay parking in West Malling be introduced from 1st April. This was before the consultation had even started.	1	Cabinet agreed that the schedule of charges for short stay parking in West Malling be deferred.
The amount of money that would be raised by the proposals is contested	1	The income raised will help off-set the cost of the parking service. The Council has also committed to increase the level of parking enforcement in the future.
Response referencing 3190 signatures against introduction of charges.	1	Petitions referred to in main report.
Introducing charges may lead to congestion in neighbouring roads as drivers wait for free spaces	2	The Council has committed to review any impact on neighbouring roads. The level of charges proposed should not deter shoppers from using the car park.
West Malling CofE Primary School has limited off-street parking and a "walking bus" operated from the Tesco car park - parents may not pay to drop off their children.	2	The Council has a commitment to discuss this with the school should the proposal be agreed.
West Malling GP practice has no on-site patient parking, the charges may mean that patients will opt to attend branch surgeries or transfer to other practices.	2	The proposals should improve accessibility as fewer spaces should be occupied by long-stay parking. The level of charges proposed should not deter patients from using the car park.
Staff at Boots chemists are concerned over their viability if surgeries move due to charges.	1	The proposals should improve accessibility as fewer spaces should be occupied by long-stay parking. The level of charges proposed should not deter customer from using the car park.
There may be effects of charge on people attending church services as the churches have no on-site parking.	1	The proposals should improve accessibility as fewer spaces should be occupied by long-stay parking. The level of charges proposed should not deter worshippers using the Church. There are no charges on Sundays.
The Library has no on-site parking, and charge may deter library users.	1	The proposals should improve accessibility as fewer spaces should be occupied by long-stay parking. The

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		level of charges proposed should not deter people from using the library.
The Borough Council has had a policy of not charging for short-stay parking in rural areas except where commuters would otherwise fill them.	1	The Borough Council is reviewing its approach on all services and facilities where no charge is currently made.
If the Council is considering charges at other centres (Snodland, Aylesford and Martin Square) then this should all be done at the same time, as this would ensure West Malling businesses are not at an unfair disadvantage.	1	Cabinet has agreed that charging in these other areas will be reviewed over the coming year.
The PTAB report states that there is a need for charging because of costs of unsuccessful prosecutions of drivers.... But this seems to be misleading.	1	The high number of PCNs issued for "no correct ticket" (which includes tickets with wrong registrations) supports the Council's view.
KCC have introduced automatic number plate recognition within the Manor Park car park - this should be considered.	1	This is not possible in our car parks that are managed under the Traffic Management Act.
TMBC lease the car park and some traders have reserved spaces as part of that lease.	1	This statement is correct.
The proposals for changes to on-street parking arrangements in Offham Road and Norman Road should be implemented and monitored before any changes are introduced in the High Street car park.	1	This is not considered to be a justified reason to delay the proposal being introduced.
Parking charges are likely to encourage inconsiderate / illegal / unsafe parking elsewhere	1	If this occurs it will be addressed through enforcement which is being enhanced as part of the proposals.
Do not charge residents to park and issue free permits.	1	This would not help address the aims of the proposals.
Make Norman Road one way only, away from the High Street	1	This is not within the Borough Council's remit and would be for Kent County Council (as the Highway Authority) to consider.
Parking in the car park should be free for the first hour	1	Free parking would still be available for 1 hour in the on-street parking bays in the High Street.

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OAPs will be the hardest hit by parking charges	1	Free parking would still be available for 1 hour in the on-street parking bays in the High Street, and blue badge holders would be able to park in the car park for free.
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