

Andy Bracey

From: Parking Office
Sent: 29 January 2018 09:27
To: Andy Bracey
Subject: FW: The Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2018

From: Pat Darby [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 January 2018 10:28
To: Parking Office <parking.Office@tmbc.gov.uk>
Cc: clerkplattpc@gmail.com
Subject: The Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2018

Dear Sirs,

Platt has no shops and the nearest shopping area is Borough Green and, to a certain extent West Malling. The bus services are so infrequent that residents have no choice but to use their cars and they are penalised by having to pay parking charges. It is important that people can shop for fresh food and that our local shops are supported, without them we have no local community. As these parking charges continue to rise more people take up free deliveries offered by the large supermarkets and these only add more traffic, often speeding and blocking of rural lanes for other traffic, and more pollution. For older residents, and those living on their own, visiting local facilities is a social event and very important. Whilst it is acknowledged that there is need to control the use of car parks it is important that we do not lose our local facilities which also means loss of employment and can also affect the independence of older residents. It should be borne in mind that our local facilities not only include a range of food shops including a butcher (rare these days) but a chemist, post office, dry cleaners, shoe repairers gift shop, hairdressers, chiroprapist, newsagent, pet store, hardware store (also rare), opticians, funeral directors, travel agents, carpet shop, car showroom, garden machinery outlet with repairs, takeaway facilities and coffee shops.

I am therefore writing to object to the increase in charges for short stay parking for at least up to two hours for the reasons above. However, the Parish Council appreciate that these facilities are abused by people, especially those using the train, and that every effort should be made to ensure that it is not financially beneficial for them to do this even to the point of charging more than the railway car park.

Yours faithfully,

Patricia A Darby
Chairman, Platt Parish Council

Andy Bracey

From: Parking Office
Sent: 29 January 2018 09:26
To: Andy Bracey
Subject: FW: TMBC (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2018

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 January 2018 23:49
To: Parking Office <parking.Office@tmbc.gov.uk>
Subject: TMBC (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2018

Dear Sir,

I wish to comment on the proposals for West Malling.

When Tonbridge and Malling decided to introduce charges in 2016, Cllr Nicholas Heslop was interviewed on Radio Kent when he said that the modest charges were needed to cover the costs of the car parks in West Malling, which he said amounted to £80,000 per year.

Information received from the Borough suggests that the income received from charging in the car park behind Tesco amounts to over £150,000 per year - far in excess of that needed. The result has been a reduction of about 25% in the number of cars using the car park and a reduced footfall and revenue for most of the shops in West Malling, making it more difficult to sustain our important market town. The West Malling GP's have described the introduction of charges as being disastrous for their patients and are in the process of selling their surgery premises and requiring some patients to go to Kings Hill or Leybourne for their medical services which will have a further detrimental effect on the town. Government policy is that market towns should enjoy free parking to enable them to remain viable.

I therefore feel that there is no case to increase charges, but they should instead be reduced to the level whereby the revenue so obtained equals the running costs as suggested by Cllr Heslop. Indeed, it is illegal to use revenue from car parking charges to support other services.

I welcome the proposal to enable a maximum length of stay of 4 hours, but only at the same rate per hour as stays for 2 and 3 hours. I would also request that a free period of up to 1 hour be included. I understand that the Borough have said that this is impractical as it would require constant attendance of traffic wardens. I would suggest that, as used to be the case, all drivers wishing to park be required to obtain and display a ticket, (on which is printed the expiry date and time) which would be free for those wishing to park for up to an hour, and at the agreed rate for stays up to 4 hours. It will then be a simple matter for traffic wardens to see if anyone has exceeded their stay without needing to be constantly in attendance.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Andy Bracey

From: West Malling Parish Council Clerk <clerk@westmallingspc.org>
Sent: 29 January 2018 13:10
To: Parking Office
Cc: Andy Bracey
Subject: FW: Parking charges

Good Afternoon,

Please find below a response to the parking charge consultation - I am not sure if it was also sent to yourselves directly? Apologies that it is late - it was sitting in my junk file.

Kind regards

Claire

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

Kent Rural Community of the Year

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 January 2018 10:59
To: clerk@westmallingspc.org
Subject: Parking charges

Dear Councillors, To increase the charges again is outrageous. To park for four hours it will be cheaper to drive to Bluewater. We are struggling so much in the high street for you to put the prices up again is suicide for us.

You need to come and talk to the people of west malling.

The long term parking has had a huge jump from £50 a year to £175. Still I have been on the list for 5 years for a permit and still not got one which seems hard. I have to park where I can and walking back late in the dark is not a nice thing for a woman to have to do.

Regards [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Claire Twinn

From: West Malling Parish Council Clerk <clerk@westmallingspc.org>
Sent: 29 January 2018 10:21
To: Parking Office
Cc: Andy Bracey
Subject: Off -street parking fees & charges consultation
Attachments: Off street parking fees consultation.doc

Dear Andy,

Please find attached WMPC comments regarding changes to the off –street parking fees & charges.

Kind regards

Claire

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

Kent Rural Community of the Year

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

Andy Bracey
Parking Manager
Tonbridge & Malling BC
Gibson Drive
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4LZ

28th January 2018

Dear Andy,

RESPONSE TO TMBC PARKING CHARGES CONSULTATION.

In the town of West Malling, High Street car park

- **an increase of 10 pence per hour (or part of) on each existing parking tariff**

The Parish Council notes that in West Malling this is a higher rate of increase than CPI, RPI or average wage level increases and so opposes the level of increase.

- **the introduction of a new £3.20 for a 4 hour tariff**

The Council supports the reintroduction of a 4 hour parking period but remains concerned that it may be abused by workers in the town who are struggling to find alternative parking. We therefore urge the council to keep this issue under review.

We also believe the charge should be in line with other tariff periods (currently at 60p per hour).

Ryarsh Lane car park

- **an increase of £25 (to £175) for 12 month car park season tickets**

Although Chamber of Commerce members of the Liaison Group acknowledged that the existing rate is good value for money, they felt a rise of £25 was too great an increase, particularly bearing in mind that it is a permit system with no guarantee of a space.

We support these comments and urge the council to reduce this level of increase and support the Parish Council efforts to secure a dedicated business car park through the Local Plan process.

The Council reaffirms its opposition to charging in the High Street shoppers car park and continues to believe it is having a harmful effect on retail premises.

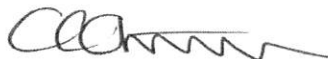
We refer you to a list of comments received from 26 of our shops by the TMBC/WMPC Parking Liaison Group at its last meeting to demonstrate this response.

The sums collected from WM car parks are far in excess of the running costs and a free first half hour or hour if affordable and should be implemented to attract small purchase daily shoppers back to the town.

We draw attention to the announced closure of the High Street GP Surgery to be replaced perhaps by a smaller premises, and the potential knock on effect on the pharmacy. A Senior Partner reported verbally to one of our members during 2017 that charges had proved 'disastrous' to the surgery. We currently have empty premises in Arundel house, the former Police Shop and former Swan Street cafe, and are aware the premises at 37 High Street is also on the market for a new tenant. The former cafe: restaurant the Fancy Goat has been converted of offices. That constitutes 10 per cent of our retail premises.

West Malling needs the support of the Borough Council in this issue to survive losses to online purchasing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Christmas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Claire Christmas
Clerk to West Malling Parish Council