

Report No.1

Report to Meeting of Malmesbury Town Council 12th May 2015

Car Park Subsidy

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To request a Council decision on whether a subsidy should be paid to Wiltshire Council to reduce parking charges in the Station Yard Car Park.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting of 24th March, this Council heard that the Town Team was considering paying a subsidy to Wiltshire Council to lower the car parking charges in the Station Yard Car Park. Councillors expressed interest in investigating this further and resolved:

" that a small Working Group be formed to work with the Town Team on a joint proposal to Wiltshire Council. Councillors Gundry and Sanderson would represent the Town Council but other members of the Council were invited to contact Councillor Gundry if they wished to participate. Councillor Kettleby was requested to liaise with the Town Team."
[Councillors Budgen and Penfold asked to participate.]

- 2.2 After discussions with Gordon MacPherson, Chairman of the Town Team, I put a series of questions to Wiltshire Council Transport Planning on 31st March. I received a reply on 20th April (principally the information used in the table below) which I immediately copied to the Working Party and the Town Team.

Annual subsidies required by Wiltshire Council for the following charging regimes in the Station Yard Car Park are as shown in the following table.

- Town Team A is the charging regime in which the Town Team are interested.
- MTC A is the charging regime that the Town Council proposed on 16th December in its response to Wiltshire Council's Car Park Review (although without any intention at that time of providing a subsidy).
- MTC B is a combination of the two.

Charge actual / proposed £	1hr	2hrs	3 hrs	4 hrs	5 hrs	8 hrs	All day	12 mo	Annual subsidy req'd by WC
Current Charges	0.40	1.10	2.00	2.40	3.20	5.20	5.60	260	-
WC proposed in their review Feb-15	0.30	1.00	2.00	2.40	3.20	4.00		184	-
Town Team proposed A	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.40	3.20	4.00		184	£9K
MTC A (proposed at Council 16-Dec-14)	0.00	0.40	1.10	2.00				184	£13K
MTC B (combination of above)	0.00	0.00	1.10	2.00				184	£16K

(No information was provided on the cost of switching between the existing to a new charging regime, or switching back.)

- 2.3. The deadline for advising Wiltshire Council of the Council's intentions is Tuesday 13th May. To enable a subsidy, the Town Council would need to enter into a legal agreement with

Wiltshire Council in the form of a deed. This would detail for example the amount of the subsidy, timetable, the timing of payments, and the timing and form of any review of the agreement. To assist this process a small financial contribution to the legal fees will be required for preparing this document.

2.4. As of the date of this report I am not aware of the Town Team's intentions.

3. Proposals

3.1 Members are asked to consider in the light of any proposal from the Town Team, or in the absence of any such proposal, whether the Town Council should make a payment to Wiltshire Council to subsidise lower car parking charges in the Station Yard Car Park for a year, and if so, how much that subsidy should be.

3.2 Should the Town Council wish to make a payment for 2015-16, members are asked to consider the implications of continuing such a payment for 2016-17 or the implications of withdrawing from such a payment.

4. Financial implications

4.1 Members are asked to consider making a subsidy in the light of the following financial information:

- (a) There is no provision for a subsidy payment in the Council's current budget, and monies would have to be taken from reserves.
- (b) In financial year 2016-17, Wiltshire Council have indicated that it is highly unlikely that the precept grant will be paid, which this year is worth £16,000 or £8.50 precept on a Band D property. It is therefore likely that the 2016-17 precept will have to rise by that amount or savings of £16,000 will have to be made, unless there is a major influx of occupied dwellings.
- (c) Further items of additional expenditure anticipated for this financial year are:
 - (i) The Town Council is now required to bear the cost of elections to the Council, at an estimated cost of a few thousand pounds per election.
 - (ii) Repairs and maintenance of the Town Hall will need to continue.
 - (iii) The Town Council has previously agreed to investigate the cost of other priority projects not including a parking subsidy and which if taken forward will require the use of reserves.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Members are asked agree a response to Wiltshire Council on proposals for charges at Station Yard Car Park and the level of any subsidy, if any, to be given by the Town Council.

Cllr John Gundry
7th May 2015