

Report No 7.

Report to P&E 15th May 2018

Wiltshire Council Traffic Regulation Order Consultation

Version 2 - change to para 2.2.2(b)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To request that Committee considers a response to Wiltshire Council's current Traffic Regulation Order consultation in respect of the proposals to introduce Bank Holiday and Sunday charges in the Station Road and Cross Hayes Car Parks.

2. Background

2.1 Earlier and current consultation

- 2.1.1 In 2017, Wiltshire Council undertook a consultation on changes (increases) to the parking charges in its car parks across Wiltshire. I presented this consultation to Full Council on 24th October. Council resolved "that a corporate response be send to Wiltshire Council on behalf of the Town Council. Councillor Gundry requested that all comments be passed to him by the 31st October after which the Town Clerk would respond on behalf of the town Council".
- 2.1.2 Responses were received from five Councillors and the record of these as shown in Appendix 1 was sent to the Town Clerk for passing to Wiltshire Council. Particularly:
- (a) Councillors approved a general increase in car parking charges, which was subsequently approved by 65% of respondees across Wiltshire and implemented in February 2018.
 - (b) Councillors did not object to Wiltshire Council raising revenue by charging for parking at the Burnham Road Car Park or raising Season Ticket Fees.
 - (c) Councillors did object, by a majority, to Wiltshire Council introducing charges for parking on a Bank Holiday or Sunday.
- 2.1.3 Wiltshire Council announced on 26th April 2018 the formal consultation that they need to conduct on a range of changes (increases) in parking charges across Wiltshire. This is the Traffic Regulation Order Consultation that was circulated by the Town Clerk to all Councillors on 2nd May and was subsequently made a news item on the Town Council website here <http://www.malmesbury.gov.uk/latest-news/487-proposed-sunday-bank-holiday-parking-charges-in-malmesbury.html>. The consultation ends on 21st May.

2.2 Specific proposals for Malmesbury Sunday and Bank Holiday

- 2.2.1 The specific proposals for Malmesbury called to Committee's attention in this report are below. It is worth noting that currently there is no formal date stated for the introduction of these charges, which depend on approval by the TRO Consultation, but 1 August would fit current practice.

- (a) Station Road Long Stay Car Park:

- (i) To introduce a Sunday charge of £0.60 per visit between 1000 and 1600 hrs. *As this is a long stay car park, "per visit" essentially means up to 08:00 the next day.*
- (ii) To introduce a Bank holiday charge – 1hr - £0.30, 2hrs - £1.00, 3hrs - £2.20, 4hrs - £2.70, 5hrs - £3.60 and All Day - £4.50. *That is, to introduce Monday-Saturday charges on a Bank Holiday.*

(b) Cross Hayes Short Stay Car Park:

- (i) To introduce a Sunday charge of £0.60 per visit. Parking charged between 0900 to 1800 limited to 2 hours with no return within 2 hours
- (ii) To introduce charging on Bank Holidays of 1hr charge £0.60 and 2 hrs charge £1.50. Parking charged between 0900 to 1800 limited to 2 hours with no return within 2 hours. *That is, to introduce Monday-Saturday charges on a Bank Holiday.*

2.2.2 The most obvious effects of these proposed charges would, if introduced, be:

(a) Station Road Long Stay Car Park:

- (i) Someone who wished to park in the Station Road Car Park at a weekend could currently buy an all-day ticket on Saturday, or not park there until 1800, and leave their car there until 0800 on Monday. Under the proposed charges, they would now need to visit their car before 1000 on the Sunday and purchase a 60p ticket. Alternatively they could buy a season ticket (£480 a year or shorter periods pro rata) or a residents' permit (£200).
- (ii) Similarly on a Bank Holiday, they would now need to buy an all-day ticket for £4.50 before 0800 hrs on the Monday or buy a season ticket or residents' permit.

In commenting on Wiltshire Council's Sunday and Bank Holiday proposal, Devizes Town Council (see below) said "the proposal would have a significant impact on many of the Devizes town centre residents who do not have their own parking spaces and do not need to move their vehicle for work purposes."

- (iii) Parking charges on a Sunday and Bank Holiday may, once widely known, deter visitors from visiting our town.

(b) Cross Hayes Short Stay Car Park:

- (i) Like the Long Stay Car Park, this car park is currently available for unlimited parking between 1800 Saturday and 0800 Monday. So it is available for residents' parking throughout Sunday. The proposed charges mean that a resident wishing to park over the weekend would be restricted to two hours on a Sunday and would need to buy a ticket on the Sunday morning. No season tickets are available for this car park.
- (ii) Parking charges on a Sunday and Bank Holiday and the restriction in parking more than two hours may deter visitors from visiting the town centre or curtail their stay. "Spending a Sunday / Bank Holiday in Malmesbury" won't be as easy as it is now especially for those for whom the steps from the Long Stay Car Park are a barrier. This may also impact attendees at the Abbey and St Aldhelm's Church Sunday services who will not be able to extend their stay in the town centre beyond two hours.

2.3 Other responses to the October consultation

2.3.1 The Cabinet Member's Report on the Car Parking Charges presented at the Cabinet 30th January meeting (within the 13MB Public Reports Pack available here <https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/g11303/Public%20reports%20pack%2030th-Jan-2018%2009.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>) reports (page 26 and following) that some 1377 responses were received to the consultation (105 being from Malmesbury). Of the total responses, 40% were in favour of Bank Holiday and Sunday charges, while 60% were not in favour and wanted the revenue raised from other charges or for funding for highway services be reduced (see Option 2 in this Appendix). So the current Wiltshire Council TRO Consultation proposes a charging regime that was explicitly rejected by the majority of those who responded to the October 2017 consultation.

2.3.2 A further set of documents regarding changes to car parking charges that were presented to Wiltshire Council Cabinet on 30th January 2018 are here <https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=74421#mgDocuments> From these documents some items are notable:

- (a) Appendix 2: Some Town Councils wrote to Wiltshire Council as part of the October 2017 consultation. Agreeing to the Sunday and Bank Holiday charging were Chippenham TC and Salisbury CC, while objecting were Corsham TC, Devizes TC and Marlborough TC. That is, objections from market towns much like Malmesbury.
- (b) Appendix 4 presents a location analysis of implementing charges in all Wiltshire car parks and harmonising residents' car parking fees, items on which the Town Council response was neutral. However Wiltshire Council has not published an area-by-area analysis of the responses to the questions on Sunday and Bank Holiday charging. I have requested this although the data may not be available in time for the consideration of this report.

2.4 Current Town Council car parking subsidy

2.4.1 For Committee's information regarding the Town Council Car Parking Subsidy.

- (a) The Town Council does not subsidise parking in the Cross Hayes Car Park, because when last considered the (weekday) costs would be considerable.
- (b) The Town Council with the Town Team does currently subsidise 1&2-hour parking in the Station Road Car Park. The retrospective subsidy fee for August 2017 to July 2018 is being discussed with Wiltshire Council, as is the estimated subsidy for August 2018 to July 2019, for decision by Committee. However it is not known what charge Wiltshire Council would wish to see to subsidise Station Road free parking on Bank Holidays and Sundays. And of course it is not known whether charging on these days will be approved by the TRO Consultation.

3. Proposal

3.1 Committee is invited to consider objecting or strongly objecting on behalf of the Town Council to the current Traffic Regulation Order Consultation (by 21st May) in respect of proposed Sunday and Bank Holiday parking charges at the Station Road and Cross Hayes Car Parks. Committee may like to express objections based on:

- (a) A negative impact on car-owning residents who do not have their own parking spaces, of which there are many in Malmesbury due to its geography.

- (b) A negative impact on the visitor experience and consequently numbers in an historic Market Town which seeks to benefit from a tourist economy.
- (c) The fact that the Sunday and Bank Holiday charging proposals were rejected by 60% of those who responded to Wiltshire Council's October 2017 consultation.
- (d) The fact that 60% of the Town Councils who made written submissions to the October 2017 consultation were against Sunday and Bank Holiday charges and these were Market Towns similar to Malmesbury.

3.2 Committee can ask the Committee Clerk to convey its comments to Wiltshire Council quoting reference WILTS/TRO/Parking as follows

Email to trafficorders@wiltshire.gov.uk

Or in writing to:

TRO Team
Sustainable Transport Group
Highways & Transport
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire BA14 8JN

3.3 Committee may wish to advise the Town Team and also Town residents of its views and encourage them to respond to the TRO Consultation by 21st May 2018.

4. Financial implications and risks

4.1 There are no direct financial implications or risks of responding to this consultation.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Committee is recommended to approve the above proposal.

Cllr John Gundry
Chair
Malmesbury Town Council Planning and Environment Committee
10th May 2018

Appendix 1
Councillors' responses to Wiltshire Council Car Parking Consultation October 2017

QUESTIONS 1 and 2 Personal details, including if you are representing an organisation.

QUESTION 3

- a. Increase parking charges in line with inflation (would raise £708K) **5**
- b. or reduce funding of public transport and highways services?

Appendix 3

Malmesbury Station Road Proposed Increases

Sunday and Bank Holiday £0

3 hours £2 to £2.20

4 hours £2.40 to £2.70

5 hours £3.20 to £3.60

All day £4 to £4.50

Malmesbury Cross Hayes Proposed Increases

Sunday and Bank Holiday £0

1 hour £0.50 to £0.60

2 hours £1.30 to £1.50

QUESTION 4

- a. Introduce Sunday and Bank Holiday charging at all Wiltshire car parks (would raise £78K), **1**
- b. or raise the money by increasing all car parking fees in that community, **4**
- c. or reduce funding of public transport and highways services?

QUESTION 5

- a. Implement charges at car parks that are currently free (would raise £95K), **5**
- b. or raise the money by increasing all car parking fees in that community,
- c. or reduce funding of public transport and highways services?

Appendix 4

Burnham Road Malmesbury (currently free) Proposed Charges

1hr £0.20

2hr £0.70

3hr £1.50

4hr £2.00

5hr £2.50

All Day £4.00

£480 per annum

£240 for 6 months

£120 for 3 months

£40 for 1 month

QUESTION 6

Remove town and parish councils' ability to use free parking spaces in November and December? Would raise £78K.

- a. Yes
- b. No **5**

QUESTION 7

- a. Raise season ticket fees (would raise £280K), **3**
- b. or raise the money by increasing all car parking fees across Wiltshire, **1**
- c. or reduce funding of public transport and highways services?

Appendix 5

Malmesbury Station Road Proposed Season Ticket Increase

From £184 p.a. to £480 p.a.

QUESTION 8

- a. Should residents' parking permits be harmonised across the county and / or with two-tiered charging (to raise 190K or £215K),
- b. or raise the money by increasing all car parking fees across Wiltshire, **2**
- c. or reduce funding of public transport and highways services?

Malmesbury has no residents' parking / limited waiting permits.

QUESTION 9 Should the grace period of 15 minutes before an overstay penalty charge is incurred be reduced to 10 minutes? Would raise £5K.

- a. Yes **1**
- b. No **4**

QUESTION 10 Any ideas from local communities, business or commercial concerns about how to raise funds?

More co-ordination between services

Higher charges for larger-engined cars and single occupancy

Peak demand pricing

Tax internet shops higher

Apply CIL money received by WC within a town/parish to purchase further chargeable car parking space within that town/parish

.....