

REPORT TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

** SEPTEMBER 2014

FREE PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS / LATE NIGHT SHOPPING EVENTS IN SEVENOAKS AND WESTERHAM TOWN CENTRES

Report of the: Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Status: For decision

Executive Summary: This report requests approval to make parking free after 5.00pm on 27 November 2014 in Westerham town centre to support a Christmas Lights event and after 6.00pm on 28 November in Sevenoaks town centre to support a similar Christmas Lights event.

This report supports the Key Aim of safer communities and the effective and efficient use of resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Roddy Hogarth

Head of Service Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Mr. Richard Wilson

Recommendation: that all parking charges be waived in all car parks and on-street parking areas in and around in Westerham after 5.00pm on 27 November and, similarly, in Sevenoaks town centre after 6.00pm on 28 November 2014, and that this be funded from the respective parking accounts.

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1. The Council has traditionally supported the annual events held in the Sevenoaks and Westerham town centres for the switching-on of Christmas lights and for late night shopping by making parking free of charge for the evening period.
 2. Requests have been received from the Westerham Town Partnership and from the Sevenoaks Town Council for the free parking concession to be repeated for this year's events which are to be held on Thursday 27 November in Westerham and on Friday 28 November in Sevenoaks.
 3. Sencio Community Leisure has confirmed that it is supporting the Sevenoaks event, as it affects their parking spaces at the Sevenoaks leisure centre.

Key Implications

Financial

4. The estimated loss of income to the parking accounts is £550.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

5. The Council has powers to suspend on-street and off-street parking charges.
6. In supporting the event, the Council will be supporting the local communities and businesses in Sevenoaks and Westerham. The provision of free parking will contribute to the success of the events for all concerned.

Equality Impacts

7. The recommendation is for the relaxation of parking charges, there are no related equality issues.

Sources of Information:	Requests from the Sevenoaks Town Council dated 28 August and from the Westerham Town Partnership dated 10 June 2014.
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Contact Officer(s):	Gary Connor (x7310)
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RICHARD WILSON

CHIEF OFFICER ENVIRONMENTAL & OPERATIONAL SERVICES
