

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARKING CHARGES FOR 2016/17**Responses to the Public Consultation****Profile of Respondents: (total of 11)**

Of the 11 respondents to the public consultation on proposed charges under the Parking Fees and Charges Review for 2016/17, eight identified themselves as residents, two were visitors and one was a business.

Table of Responses

Comment	Respondents										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
£10 charge unreasonable	x	x									
Doubling 20p charge is excessive			x						x		
Should be able to park according to what you have paid (i.e. if 80p charging period and you pay £1, should get additional 20p's worth of parking)			x					x			
30mins charging period should be available in all car parks			x					x			
Increased charging won't encourage visitors/trade					x	x	x		x		
Do more to charge commuters (including in station car parks) who sometimes park for free elsewhere, as commuters do not spend money in the town.					x					x	
Consider a free parking periods (e.g. free hour/2hours parking at lunch (as in France)/increase period of free parking on street/free parking after 6.30pm)			x		x					x	x
Pay on exit system would mean fewer staff and less stress	x										
Pay by phone option should be discounted as it is less to administer			x								
Parking in the carparks behind the Swanley Centre should be abolished as there are two doctors' surgeries close by				x							

Original comments:**Respondent 1**

On the whole seem reasonable but do not believe the £10 Blighs proposal reasonable or likely to be popular. Although I understand enforcement staff are already employed Sundays (not sure how many/why?), I do not believe additional parking restrictions will benefit trade. Whilst not a comment on the current

proposals, I do wonder if it would be of benefit to all if pay on exit facilities were in place in car parks. This might result in fewer enforcement staff, shoppers not having to rush back to cars, so perhaps spending more in town and more likely to return. Perhaps this has already been looked at, but perhaps not.

Respondent 2

The new £10 charge for 4 hours at Blighs car park is excessive. What are you trying to achieve with the new rate. Are we actively encouraging shoppers and visitors to the centre of Sevenoaks, or trying to rip them off.

Respondent 3

1. Doubling the 20p for 30 minutes on street parking in South Park & High Street etc is excessive
2. It is possible for machines to give a number of minutes parking based on the amount paid, for example if the rate is 80p for an hour and the user only has a £1 coin, the user should be given extra time for the extra 20p paid. Likewise if the user has only 50p, you get fewer minutes. Its not rocket science and it is fairer than taking money for nothing.
3. The payment by telephone should offer a discount against the cash payment - as it is less work for the Council
4. All car parks should offer a 30 minute slot.
5. If you want to attract shoppers and diners to the high street, consider offering a free hour/2hours at lunchtime like most towns in France.

Respondent 4

I think the parking charges in the car parks behind Swanley Centre should be abolished particularly as this includes the 2 doctors' surgeries.

Respondent 5

Get rid of parking charges, use a 2-4 hour slot for free parking, why would a council charge residents to park? You want money spent in the towns then it's idiot proof FREE PARKING !!!!!!! I'm a retail manager and you really shouldn't charge for parking, it's greed, get money from other resources instead, and slap a ticket on clever commuters who park for free and get away with it and ignore the signs!!!!!!

Respondent 6

Sevenoaks has unreasonable parking charges and forces people away from the town.

Respondent 7

Can someone explain to me how putting the parking charges up will encourage people to visit Sevenoaks and spend money in local businesses when you have free

parking at other towns in the area to encourage shoppers. Also if you outstay your welcome the traffic wardens are waiting for you !!

Respondent 8

I think the restraint is a good thing. I have two 'however's' though. I think that people should get the parking they pay for when they don't have the exact change. e.g at the moment if the parking fee is 70p, and you only have a pound coin so pay £1 you get no more time. I think a 30 minute parking in Buckhurst 1 would be appreciated by local businesses. I am sure this could be positioned as investing in the town.

Respondent 9

I have owned and run a business in Southpark for over 10 years and have witnessed a steady incline in parking charges and a steady decline in footfall over those years. For you to think and state in your report that Sevenoaks town remains a thriving shopping centre because we have the fewest number of empty shops shows how deluded you are. Also your comments regarding Marks and Spencer helping to underpin Sevenoaks as a popular retail hub is pathetic, it's great that we have M & S but having them here has done absolutely nothing for the other businesses in town. I'm not sure if you have noticed but there's a small shopping centre called "Bluewater" just up the road which every business in town has to contend with. How you think its fair to put up the charges from 20p to 40p (100% increase) is absolutely ridiculous, the new charge will not help with parking turnover and will not help local businesses either. Again it will just make it more expensive and again put more people off.

Respondent 10

Parking charges should be abolished after 6.30 pm as there is a surplus of space and no need to manage demand by pricing. This would boost restaurants, cinema and pub trade. Daytime pricing in the station car parks could be increased at a faster rate. Rail commuters largely do not contribute to footfall in shops and other businesses.

Respondent 11

I park in surrounding streets where you currently have 2 hours free. I can't afford to pay for parking, so rush in and out of required bank etc. and leave! Could you not increase the free time for parking in the streets to encourage people to look around the shops and businesses in Sevenoaks? As I understand things, councils don't operate to make a profit/income out of parking charges (by law) to having a 2 hours limit doesn't help anyone and is harming both businesses and tourism/day trippers.