

APPENDIX A

1. Sevenoaks District Council conducted a public consultation on the proposals between 8 January and 19 February 2018. 42 responses were completed, which comprised:

- Workers & Businesses – 4
- Residents – 29, though it was noted a number of such respondents gave an address outside the District
- Visitors & Shoppers – 9

2. Respondents were encouraged to read the report which came to Cabinet in November, after which they were asked three questions.

- Do you support the proposed simplification, which would see the hours during which charges apply off-street (i.e. in the Council's pay-and-display car parks) in Sevenoaks reduced from between 8:30am and 9:30pm to between 8:30am and 8:30pm?

Seventeen respondents supported the simplification, against twenty-five who did not.

- A further suggestion, which was not in the Report, is to also reduce the hours during which charges apply on-street in Sevenoaks, again from between 8:30am and 9:30pm to between 8:30am and 8:30pm. Do you support this proposal?

Eighteen respondents supported the simplification, against twenty-four who did not.

- Do you have any other feedback on the Report, which you would like us to consider?

3. The feedback is summarised below:

- there should be no Sunday charges.

Sunday charging is not under consideration as part of the proposals but parking is free in approximately 750 off-street bays, as well as on-street.

- charges should finish even earlier than proposed.

This is not under consideration as part of the proposals but hours of operation are one tool available to assist with the effective management of parking so these will be kept under review to ensure our parking facilities continue to operate as efficiently as possible.

- dislike paying an evening charge.

The evening charge was introduced in 2004 to help improve the management of the car parks through the evening and support the provision of the service. Demand has increased since its introduction but the price has remained the same, meaning the increasing costs of parking provision have been disproportionately borne by those who park during the day. There is no evidence to suggest the charge has dissuaded visitors from visiting the town centre, although feedback has indicated some of those who are unfamiliar with the setup are occasionally confused by the switch from a linear to fixed charge, hence the proposed simplification.

- have no objection to paying the evening charge, or the proposed simplification is unnecessary.

This is encouraging to hear however the Council has over the years also received feedback to the contrary.

- more long stay parking provision is required in Sevenoaks.

Development has started on the development of a new multi decked car park at Buckhurst 2 (the Council's Sevenoaks town centre long stay car park). Work should be complete in spring 2019, when the car park will help:

- provide spaces for the significant number of people currently on the waiting lists for parking permits;
- ease congestion, reducing the number of motorists driving around in search of spaces;
- free up parking in short stay car parks and in residential streets; and,
- support the continued economic success of the town.

- parking in Chipstead is difficult.

Parking in Chipstead is not under consideration as part of the proposals but the Parking Team will discuss this feedback with Local Members.

- the Council is proposing increasing charges in its car parks.

It is proposed that all charges across the District be frozen for the second year running.

- customers will pay more under the proposals.

Some customers will indeed pay more however some will pay less, and in many cases they will pay nothing at all. As has always been the case, it depends entirely on where and when customers choose to park.

- parking charges are too high in Sevenoaks, or should be set at £1 per day.

It is proposed all tariffs be frozen both on and off-street. The Council's car parks operate almost at capacity and enjoy a steady turnover throughout the day demonstrating the level of charges and other methods of management are set appropriately. These will be kept under review to ensure our parking facilities continue to operate as efficiently as possible.

- the phrasing of the report, consultation or associated advertising was confusing or could be improved.

The Council added further information to the advertising in response to this valued feedback, which will also help inform future consultations to make them even more user friendly.