

1. Sevenoaks District Council conducted a public consultation on the proposed charges between 12 December and 10 February 2017. 273 responses were received, which comprised:
 - Businesses – 5
 - Residents – 227, of which 136 were from TN13/14
 - Visitors – 33
 - Other Organisations – 6
2. The majority of the representations had common themes and phrases – indeed some were identical – indicating that there may have been a degree of coordination or direction in responding. The content of some suggested that the November report was not fully considered or understood by respondents prior to completing the survey.
3. Opponents of the proposed tariff extension in Blighs cited a number of beliefs, notably that it would:
 - have a detrimental effect on the local economy.

SDC supports local businesses. The proposal aim to improve the turnover of spaces in Blighs which will in turn support shops and restaurants in Sevenoaks. As with any changes, the impact will be closely monitored.

Those who suggested shoppers would choose to travel to neighbouring towns or shopping destinations are referred to evidence provided in Paragraph 7 of the November report, which respondents were encouraged to read.

Furthermore it should be remembered that parking will remain free in over 1,000 off-street bays in the town centre.

- small shops will be disadvantaged.

There is no evidence to suggest the proposals will disadvantage any shops, let alone small businesses.

- disadvantage the rugby club, leisure centre and church goers.

Other car parks, in which parking is free, are more convenient for all the churches in Sevenoaks, the leisure centre and the rugby club. Indeed if customers are parking in Blighs for those then they are occupying spaces which are better suited to shoppers.

- lead to charging in all car parks on Sundays.

This is not one of the proposals under consideration.

- be unenforceable.

SDC already carries out enforcement on Sundays. It should be noted that Civil Enforcement Officers are not employed solely for revenue protection purposes, they also encourage the efficient management of a finite resource and, importantly, endeavour to ensure parking is carried out in a safe manner.

- mean workers will be obliged to pay on Sundays.

Spaces in all other car parks will remain free, including the SDC staff car park in Gordon Road which provides complimentary all-day parking at weekends to assist workers in the town – this was a widely applauded improvement made last year.

4. Whilst only a few respondents mentioned on-street charges, no representations were received in direct opposition to the proposed on-street tariff simplification.

5. Other remarks included:

- the evening charge should be reformed.

This is not one of the proposals under consideration.

- thirty minute stays should be available in the town.

These are already available.

- parking in Sevenoaks is more expensive than neighbouring towns.

It is not – details were provided in Appendix A of the November report, which respondents were encouraged to read.

- there are an insufficient number of spaces in the town.

SDC is working towards the development of additional parking capacity in the town and will continue to manage those spaces which are available in the most appropriate fashion.

- improved station parking is required.

The new upgraded Bradbourne car park will open in April, which will include innovative Premium Bays, more flexible payment options and short-stay parking to help local businesses, notably the shops around the station on London Road.

- support the charges but the disabled bays should remain free of charge.

Introducing charges for Blue Badge holders parked in disabled bays is not one of the proposals under consideration.

E Mail Responses

“I would like to object in the strongest terms to your proposed introduction of charges for parking on Sundays at The Leisure Centre and Blighs.
At Sevenoaks Rugby Club, we provide sports facilities for over 800 children on Sundays, and have been specifically requested by both the Town and District Councils to encourage our members not to park near the club, in order to avoid serious traffic congestion and preserve the quiet neighbourhood for residents. Despite having to walk down to Knole Paddock from the town car parks with kitbags and quite small children, parents have responded very well to this request, as responsible members of the community.
Many of our parents are already financially stretched in providing kit, transport and fees (although our subs are amongst the lowest in Kent), often for more than one child, and we feel it is extremely unfair to penalise them by suddenly making them pay for parking.
We urge you to reconsider this move, which would hit the parents of Sevenoaks, not just visitors from outside our town who have a choice; it would also inevitably result in a return to parking congestion in the roads around the rugby club.
Or perhaps our members could apply for a free parking permit if you go ahead with the new charges?”

“I have completed the survey but wanted to express further concerns about the proposed parking charges.
I do feel along with many others that this will seriously affect the local shops as many people, myself included will go to other market towns that don't charge or to Bluewater.
The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday. This could mean the decline of another high street.
Also with fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network (Approx 6000 members) are outraged - proposals to stop this extremely unpopular move include contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage.
I am sure that nothing the local residents or businesses say will dissuade the council but ask that the charges are seriously reconsidered.”

"I have filled in the survey and am now writing to you in opposition to the proposal to charge the community to park in Blighs Car Park on a Sunday.

I run a group of 6000 Sevenoaks mums and this is their response to your intent to charge them to visit the town with their families on the one day in which parking does not represent a barrier to visit.

Arguments against:

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience
- 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement
- 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison.
- 9) A local Mums group, 'Sevenoaks Mums Network' is outraged - proposals to stop this extremely unpopular move include contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage. This group opposes the proposal - it has 6000 members.
- 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

Thank you in advance for your time spent reading my email to you. I look forward to your response."

"Please accept the replacement of point 9. in my earlier email.

Will change in both threads and send a retraction email to the Council with replacement text:

9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (opinions have been collected) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage."

"I am so shocked at the parking charges in Sevenoaks town already and now you are

going to charge us on a Sunday?! Are you trying to kill the town off?!! I belong to Sevenoaks mum's network on Facebook and we are all so upset and shocked! I don't come into Sevenoaks town at the best of times because the parking is a joke and now you are going to charge us on a Sunday?! When half the shops are not open?!! There will be nothing left in the town by the time you have finished with it! I have spent all my life living in and around Sevenoaks and I find this sole destroying!"

Online Survey Responses

I think that by charging for parking on a Sunday it will have a negative effect on the town centre. I fear that people would stop coming to the shops and restaurants and go elsewhere. We're lucky in Sevenoaks to have so many independent shops, but they won't be able to survive if the shoppers are pushed to go elsewhere.

It's greedy and grabby and you should be ashamed of yourselves. This will damage trade for small businesses as people vote with their feet for other locations. Your fees are already extortionate and this is a slap in the face for those people who use the town on a Sunday for family time, and who might not be able to afford it otherwise. Parking is limited in town and whilst locals can walk in, anyone slightly further out (I'm in Otford) has no choice but to park. It's also the only place with parent/child parking so you are penalising those people too.

insane idea it will kill the high street. I would shop elsewhere and eat elsewhere. The council needs better brainstorming if it thinks this is a good idea to generate additional income!!! It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience. With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement. Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

Parking charges in Sevenoaks are already high, compared to other destination town centres such as West Malling, and to out of town shopping locations such as Bluewater. Charging for Sunday parking at this level will be detrimental to the residents and businesses of Sevenoaks. More specifically:

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They are unlikely to spend as much time in town if paying full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, especially as it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience.
- 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement.
- 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year. Whilst other spaces may be available in theory, if they are not available on the day these workers will incur these unavoidable extra costs.

It is a diabolical idea. I chose to go into Sevenoaks on a Sunday, and not on other days, to avoid the extortionate charges. If Sunday charges are introduced I won't shop in Sevenoaks at all.

Ridiculous. During the week I have often decided not to go into Sevenoaks to either buy items I require or meet friends for coffee/lunch due to the existing charges and Have gone to other locations such as Bluewater as they offer free parking. It's a additional expense that I do not need. My family and I often go into Sevenoaks on a Sunday to use the leisure facilities, eat lunch and/or buy a few items. If these proposed charges go ahead we will have to review this and I would imagine reduce/stop of our visits. Ultimately it will further inconvenience residents and affect the local economy.

Please don't charge in lights on Sundays. Let us use our town centre free of charge. My elderly parents love going for lunch in town and it's so much easier for them to walk from blighs.

Damage Sunday trading Not fair to charge full price when only half the shops are open Will just go to Bluewater or T. Wells instead Tend to go out for leisurely breakfast on a Sunday, won't be doing this if have to pay for parking. Have small child and there are no other parent and child spaces in Sevenoaks! One step towards charging for all the car parks

APPENDIX A

Yes to normalising charges. Charging on Sunday is quite clearly just a revenue earning ploy with no benefit for local businesses nor residents, therefore oppose these charges.

Absolutely disgraceful! The parking fees are insanely priced as it is killing so much trade in Sevenoaks already! Shops come and go so rapidly and one of the reasons is the prices we are expected to pay to park. People shop in bluewater and the like instead. Do not ruin the Sunday trade as well!!

The evening charges at Blighs are too high. It should be free after 6pm. The suggestion that you will now charge on Sunday also is not popular and is strongly objected to.

I think it's a real shame to introduce parking charges on sundays. I have spoken to people who would rather go soemwhere like an industrial estate where there are no charges than park in town, which means local businesses lose trade. I would also welcome machines that let you pay for half an hour. For example, with children I often think something will take me an hour but I don't want to go over the timing in case I have to deal with tantrums so have to pay for 2 hours just in case, when half an hour would do.

Please no charges on a Sunday-unless you want our town to completely die a death!!! Also many spaces in the car park behind tescos is used by parents taking children to sevenoaks rugby club playing at lady boswells school fieldz If you start charging then it will be even harder to park at this time and cause chaos where there are free spaces. Let's support children's clubs not make everything harder and more expensive for parents!!

I am against the proposed parking charges. It is very expensive to park in Sevenoaks and this deters me from shopping in the town centre. A Sunday is the only time I go into town to look at the shops, if I have to pay for parking I will go elsewhere. Also what about the people who work in town. It is very expensive for them to park near their work

Ridiculous. The whole point of a Sunday in my eyes is to be with family or friends and to socialise or relax doing what you want to do. That may include meeting people for a coffee. A nice cheat day lunch or a walk around knole park or town. There will be nobody coming to Sevenoaks if they have to pay. Instead. Families will be sitting at home on the sofa eating junk food getting obese or playing computer games rather than being outside in the fresh air.

I disagree with full parking charges on. a Sunday. The town is not fully operational on a Sunday and it instead encourages people to the centre for other interests such as leisure time on the vine. This should not be discouraged.

Please do not charge for parking on a Sunday in Blighs Sevenoaks, firstly there aren't enough shops open to warrant it but even if there were it would put me off popping in to Sevenoaks and would go to a bigger shopping centre to park for free! Also the poor shops will suffer and restaurants will suffer. I strongly feel it should be left the way it is.

Not having a consistent approach seems silly. So you will have to pay someone to just police one car park? Seems inefficient. We often use Blighs on a Sunday and this charge would put us off coming to Sevenoaks all together as with 2 kids this is the most convenient car park.

Parking in Sevenoaks is a nightmare - it's hard to find a space and there is nowhere with a 20minute free limit incase you literally just need to pop to one shop briefly. Most towns I've lived in have at least one street with this option.

Disagree. Bad for shop owners and community

There should be no charges for Blighs on a Sunday. As I have small children if I'm going to park in Sevenoaks it would be there due to the proximity to the shops. I would only park on a Sunday if it were free. Not that many shops are open on Sunday and it's not worth paying for a half open high street. I think charging will also destroy Sunday trading n Sevenoaks, making it not viable for shops to open on Sunday and reducing their profitability as a whole, leading to further closures. Furthermore if there are charges for Blighs, I would simply go to Tonbridge or other nearby towns where parking is free. Please sort out commuter parking for part time workers rather than trying to destroy the town centre.

If you charge on Sundays then the few people that shop in Sevenoaks town will go elsewhere and there will be more shops closing down. Its a ridiculous idea just to get more money out of people.

I am totally opposed to introducing Sunday parking charges in Blighs. The attraction of Sevenoaks on a Sunday is that parking is free everywhere - this means a much more relaxed shopping and/or restaurant experience as you don't have to check the time to see if you are exceeding your parking. Customers will stay longer and spend more if they aren't restricted by paid parking. Inevitably if it is introduced in Blighs it is only a matter of time before this gets rolled out to all the car parks. Have you considered a radical idea of passing parking revenue onto retailer rates instead (if the council so desperately needs the revenue?). I am forever cutting my shopping trips short because my parking is running out. I would stay longer and spend more if my trips weren't curtailed because of my parking running out. Better for retailers and better for the customer. Please keep Sevenoaks the town it is. Stop inhibiting trade and allow the retailers to flourish.

I am against the introduction of parking charges on Sundays. This will only push local shoppers to places further afield such as Bluewater. Having shopped in Sevenoaks regularly on a Sunday there has never been a problem with turnover of spaces. Sevenoaks Council should be supporting its local businesses - this will be doing the opposite of that. It will also be detrimental to The Stag and push cinemagoers to multiplexes with free parking.

It will be assumed that this is the first step to changing all car parking fees in Sevenoaks on a Sunday, therefore the shopper will choose a location where parking is guaranteed to be free of charge.

I'm already concerned about the number of businesses closing on the High Street. This proposal will only make things more difficult (for the smaller and independent business we love in particular) as customers are more likely to turn to larger shopping centres like Bluewater or leisure centres like Tunbridge Wells industrial estate, which offer more choice as well as free parking. Even compared with other nearby market towns (e.g. Tonbridge, Oxtead) the parking costs in Sevenoaks are extremely high, particularly in Blighs (the most family friendly car park with its larger spaces and parent & child bays). I am fortunate to live within walking distance of the town centre so rarely need to drive and park myself, but this will keep many of my friends from coming into Sevenoaks and force us to meet elsewhere. Please don't go ahead with these charges - help protect our lovely town.

As it stands, I find parking in town expensive and if I want to support local businesses by going to the cinema and lunch then there is limited parking choices as you would need more than 4 hours (the long-stay at the leisure centre is always full). This already makes us choose to either go elsewhere (Bluewater, Tunbridge Wells etc) or to do this on a Sunday in Sevenoaks when parking is free. I believe by additionally charging for parking in Blighs on Sundays, it will further harm our town and the local businesses that we would all like to support. Blighs is also the most convenient car park for parents with young children. By enforcing such charges, I feel the Council will do more harm than good to our town.

It will be the death of Sevenoaks small businesses as people choose to shop elsewhere on a Sunday. Personally, we come from Tonbridge and park in Sevenoaks most Sundays as a) it's free b) it's close and c) there are parent and child spaces (unlike Tonbridge). However with a) out of the equation we'll go to our rainy day shopping destination Bluewater instead. I don't see how Sevenoaks will possibly be able to compete.

Awful. More and more businesses around Blighs seem to be closed on a Sunday, which means shoppers are heading to Bluewater. With the introduction of Sunday parking charges I would only assume this situation will get worse and the town centre will be effectively closed on a Sunday.

I think that the parking in Sevenoaks is expensive and stops me from going into town so much. If charged up or implemented on Sunday's I will visit Sevenoaks less.

Proposed Charges for Sunday parking at Blighs Car Park - I believe that this would detrimentally impact on the Sunday trade for small businesses possibly leading them to close on a Sunday impacting on the whole town or worse still close permanently. Sunday visitors to Sevenoaks may well be visiting restaurants and a longer time span is required. Other local towns such as Oxted and Tunbridge Wells retail park offer free Sunday parking so therefore become more attractive and take business away from Sevenoaks. Charging for Blighs could be a gateway for Sunday charges being implemented in all Sevenoaks car parks which then will have a greater impact on the amount of people that choose to use the town in a Sunday. Parking charges are expensive in Sevenoaks and deters visitors in the week for staying for a long period by charging on Sunday you will alienate customers to the shops/restaurants/cinema and people will vote with their feet and go elsewhere this will affect the high street long term - give the public this one small perk of free Sunday parking.

The charges in Sevenoaks car parks are already too high, as a long term Sevenoaks resident living in Chipstead, I simply don't come into the town any more as it's money wasted on parking. I'm sorry to say that it's easier to shop out of town or online. Charging on Sunday's will simply worsen the situation. It is a shame as the small businesses in Sevenoaks simply won't survive. Towns such as Oxted have free parking in the centre of town, and a thriving high street of small independents.....

Please do not charge for parking on a Sunday. This makes me and my family choose Sevenoaks over Bluewater or another shopping facility with free parking. I feel it would negatively impact shopping and leisure visits to Sevenoaks High Street.

Don't think we should pay on Sundays. Parking in Sevenoaks is prohibitively expensive. Not everyone who lives in Sevenoaks is loaded! I do not own a 4 by 4 😊

I think it's very expensive to park already. People will go elsewhere on Sunday if expected to pay then too!

I don't think it's fair, it's already a very expensive car park, makes you think twice before heading to the high street to shop, Sundays was a good day to shop as the parking was free...take that way and I believe that the local business will struggle even more.

Ridiculous that we will have to pay on Sunday's as well, also that we have to pay so till so late at night! I think the real issue is the long stay, I am a working mum who works 5 hours and am at the car park at 9am and can never get a space meaning I have to use my 10min break to go and move my car as parking is not sufficient, seems like it discriminates against working parents!!! Need to make it bigger or make short stays 6hr parking!!!

The reasons given for the proposal to charge for parking on Sundays in Blighs car park are to increase the turnover of cars. I go into Sevenoaks regularly on a Sunday after my children play sports and we usually visit some shops and then have some food. There are rarely any issues parking in Blighs however I do accept that this is not always the case in busy Christmas weeks. Charging for this car park will push me to street or other car parks and therefore you are just moving the "problem" elsewhere. There is no problem, it smacks of charging for income rather than parking management and I am really against it. The businesses in town need as much traffic as possible to remain viable, they are quiet enough as it is on a Sunday and this proposed parking charges will push people away if only as a protest. Don't do it, you are trying to solve a problem which doesn't exist. Regards Susan Smith

This is not welcomed at all. As a sevenoaks town resident for over 5 years I have continued to support our town centre and its businesses. With the charges rising constantly for certain will not continue to support the town. I spend on average around £20 a week on parking as a busy mother and using local businesses. How will they survive if this continues? There will be no town or footfall closing most of the smaller independent traders. I will be forced to use bluewater which has free parking. To save our town and its residents I certainly think this a terrible and yet again greedy idea!

It is quite ridiculous to raise car park charges when it is already so high. And to start charging on a Sunday will only kill local businesses as I for one will avoid at all costs. I strongly object and disagree with raising charges for the on road parking and also object to the tariffs being implemented on Sunday in Bligh.

We live in Swanley near the railway station the charges in the area are far too cheap as most of the people that park work in London so maybe the charge should reflect this, minimum of £2.00 per hour and £8.00 all day with no over night parking. Meter parking other roads like the top end of St Marys Road, in the places allowed from 10am also everest place.

As a member of St Nicholas Church - both the services at St Nics and our church plant - Grace Church which meets at Lady Boswell's School will be affected by Sunday charging. Our own car parks are always full.

Strongly object to losing free parking on a Sunday. Will not be shopping or eating in Sevenoaks if charges are introduced. Local businesses will suffer.

Completely disagree with charging on Sundays. If this goes ahead will 100% shop/eat elsewhere Bluewater, Nugents Park etc.

I attend a local church in the town and parking is limited at the church and so parking at the council car parks is essential. As I live outside of the town and need to drive into church, this would impact my attendance as well as a lot of people's attendance.

APPENDIX A

First 15 minutes should be free. That will help the local shops. But parking should NOT be pay and display. It should be pay for time used upon leaving. This way people won't feel a need to rush back, and you may earn more, not less, despite not earning penalties in revenue. But now, no need to hire a traffic warden. Also, visiting S'oaks becomes a more pleasurable experience for all.

I don't think it is a good idea to have charges on a Sunday as this would be very problematic for Grace Church (a St Nicholas church plant) which meets at Lady Boswells school. There are too many people for the car park at the school so the leisure centre is often used.

I use the high street shops more on a Sunday because the parking is free. If you charge on a Sunday you will kill trade and especially that of small businesses. People will go to Bluewater where the parking is free.

Terrible. Should be free parking on a Sunday to encourage shoppers into the town

Local businesses struggle enough when competing with the big shopping centres such as Bluewater. please don't impact on these businesses more than they are. It won't be long before local town shopping is a thing of the passed. You should be encouraging locals to use their local shops. It is very short sighted approach by the council because they rely on revenue from business rates etc, if you start introducing charges on Sunday then it may put further pressure on businesses and therefore we may see shops close down. I don't my think evening charges should apply either.

I feel quite strongly against this proposition for two reasons: 1. The council is making it difficult for local businesses to survive - as shoppers choose to opt for free parking in Bluewater. 2. We live on a quiet cul-de-sac close to town and on Sunday's there is a lovely community feel with the children playing football and out on bikes because it is safe as there are less cars using the on street parking. Whereas Mon-Sat - we get many more cars who drive down the road and park to avoid the hefty car park prices for town.

Disposable and unnecessary greedy. It will kill the town

Awful. You will be destroying Sevenoaks as a town centre and forcing people to travel to out of area shopping centres such as Bluewater. The local community and businesses will be affected. It's greedy.

Sunday's should continue to be free parking days. I regularly drive to other towns so I don't need to pay parking charges and only shop in Sevenoaks on Sundays.

I find this a shocking proposal for several reasons and do not support it under any circumstances

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience
- 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement
- 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison.
- 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage.
- 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year. The council should be ashamed of themselves.

This will have a huge impact on church attendance.

To charge a parking fee on a Sunday, will push even more business away from Sevenoaks! I think doing this is very short sighted of the council and greedy.

I welcome harmonisation of charges across all car parks and freezing them. I do not welcome the introduction of charges in Blighs on a Sunday.

I attend Grace Church at Lady Boswells school and regularly park in the leisure centre car park. As someone who does not live in Sevenoaks and therefore does not have a resident's permit, paid parking would be very inconvenient and further limit my parking options in Sevenoaks.

I'm shocked and very disappointed that you are even thinking about charging people to park in Sevenoaks Blighs on a Sunday. There are so many wonderful shops and restaurants in Sevenoaks and by putting a charge in the carpark you are pushing us away from these places. Also it's incredibly unfair on the people who work in Sevenoaks. They should not have to pay.

I disagree with the proposed charge on Sundays at Blighs. This will deter people from shopping/eating out in Sevenoaks centre and I urge you to reconsider.

I think this is really sad. It is already difficult for a lot of our shops to make money during this difficult time. We have more empty shops due to excessive rates than I ever care to remember. Sundays is for lazy shopping, going for lunch, maybe a little more shopping. Being stuck on a time will only remove spending opportunities. It will be another frantic day, like Saturdays. I will be more tempted to go to Blue Water now. I hate the idea of having to pay ridiculous prices for parking. But I am happy to 6 days of the week if it means I get free parking on Sunday. Shame on you for being so gluttonous. Typical really of the council you have become.

Charging for parking on Sundays in the Sevenoaks Leisure Centre car park will prove very problematic as many people use this to attend Grace Church, held in Lady Boswell's school and accessed via the gate to the Leisure Centre. It will be an extra barrier to newcomers and current members of the congregation and I do not think the benefits will be at all visible.

This proposal would be very detrimental to many who attend Sevenoaks Grace Church on a Sunday morning at Lady Boswells School. Due to limited parking at the school, many park at the Leisure Centre. Please reconsider this plan and keep it to week day and Saturday parking only.

It would make church attendance more difficult.

I am very much in support of local shopping but the increase in parking over the last 7 years since we have lived there now really has us questioning this. The alternative, often, is to pop to Bluewater with free parking all the time & the roads are generally quiet on a Sunday too. We are in Oxted every Saturday for our children's Gymnastics classes and are increasingly using Oxted town to pick up the few bits we need as they have free parking. Normally we end up spending more money there than we'd intended. We would otherwise do this in Sevenoaks but the parking really has now reached a level where it is simply putting us off. I can't believe we are the only ones. Below are the main reasons for my objections:

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience.
- 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. Bluewater is a big pull. I am keen to support local businesses but not at any cost....the parking makes a big difference.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is both illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement.
- 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. We are there for gymnastics every Saturday & have taken to shopping there more as the free parking really means it's find to pop there for the few bits we need but we often then spend more.
- 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (above or in the other thread, opinions have been collected in both) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage.
- 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

Dear Sir, As Rector St Nicholas Sevenoaks I would want to register my concern about the effect of charging on Sundays. Many folk who attend our congregations in different parts of Sevenoaks need to use these car parks and putting a charge on this facility would be a disincentive. I fully recognise that these are not easy decisions for the Council but I would be grateful if you could reconsider the proposal to charge on Sundays. Yours sincerely Revd Canon Angus MacLeay

I have a negative review as we use the car park for church attendance (church service at Lady Boswells school at 10am).

I am completely against the proposed parking charges. Please find arguments below:

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience
- 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement
- 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison.
- 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (above or in the other thread, opinions have been collected in both) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage.
- 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

Charging for parking on Sunday is completely unnecessary. I already avoid going into Sevenoaks where possible if I have to pay for parking and try and shop locally on a Sunday. If parking charges are introduced it will definitely deter me. I'll just go to Bluewater where it's free. There are no other parent and child spaces in council car parks, to my knowledge in Sevenoaks, other than Blighs. This is not fair.

It will kill Sunday shopping! Enough shops have closed anyway in Sevenoaks, it's too easy and cheaper just to go to Bluewater.

I feel this is totally shocking ! Living in Sevenoaks is so expensive as it is ! The parking is super expensive the only perk is free parking on a Sunday and now you as a council are taking this away from us . Many families that live in Sevenoaks who are not super rich like most of them look forward to free parking and making use of the shops ! No rushing around in 1 hour like I would on a week day ! I find this totally unexceptable and I'm very sad at the way Sevenoaks is turning out . Why is everything about money it costs a fortune to live here which I have all my life the whole parking system is appealing ! Shame on Sevenoaks district council . I'm not surprised people who have lived here for all there lives have moved away !!!

The management of parking in Sevenoaks is incredibly flawed and fails to provide a coherent policy that functions for residents or businesses but is expensive for visitors. I do not agree that more charges should be levied on parking as this will not solve the fundamental issue but will further damage the attractiveness of visiting Sevenoaks. Parking on streets should be reserved for residents and their visitors only to foster community and prevent isolation due to the difficulty of regular family, friend or carer visiting. The use of resident on street parking for short stay public parking is completely unacceptable. The cost of parking in Sevenoaks car parks should be kept to a minimum to continue to attract shoppers into the town. The difficulty of parking and the severe lack of suitable parking for shoppers from nearby villages is 1: killing the town centre and 2: demonstrates a real short sighted council policy and does nothing to ensure the town's future. What Sevenoaks needs is not further parking charges but creative parking policy to provide the required parking for shoppers. This is most likely to include more convenient car parks

As a mother of two young children it is less safe to park on roads which would be free so this is unfair and should be taken into consideration. Not that I do this every week but it's a good opportunity to just park and relax without worrying about time etc on tickets. If I were to have to pay I would go elsewhere which others may deride to do taking away business from my local town

I disagree with the proposed parking charges being introduced on a Sunday at Blighs car park. This will damage Sunday trading, and why target this particular car park, surely this is the first step towards introducing it into all your car parks on a Sunday? High streets are dying across the country and you want to introduce more parking charges. You will drive custom towards places where parking is free e.g. Bluewater, Tunbridge Wells Industrial Estate.

Bad idea for businesses in Sevenoaks- keep Sundays free everywhere!

Far too expensive - puts people off shopping locally which is a great shame for small businesses.

I think the price of parking in Sevenoaks is a deterrent to shopping in the town. When compared to Oxted where parking is free and has a vibrant, largely independent high street, I think the expensive and regular increases in parking charges in Sevenoaks has been highly detrimental to the independent shopkeepers, so that in effect it is becoming another homogeneous high street. At present, I keep my visits to the town at a minimum and unless I can secure a 2-hour free parking space regularly turn around and head home. I object strongly to spending money on parking if I only need to head into one or two shops, surely the bread-and-butter of a small town?

You are killing the High Street. Stop being so greedy!

The proposed charges on Sunday are outrageous. Sundays aren't a problem to park in Sevenoaks, so to make out that these charges are to free up spaces is absurd and greedy

I think any charges on a Sunday are a terrible idea. I'll vote with my car and go elsewhere to shop on the weekend if you implement those plans. To charge the same as a weekday is just rude.

Personally I feel the parking charges in Sevenoaks are a disgrace far to expensive for what Sevenoaks as a town has to offer! So I only tend to come up on a Sunday but if the parking on a Sunday is charged I won't bother I would rather go further a field than give Sevenoaks council more money especially when they own businesses in Sevenoaks that they profit on too!!!

Greedy and unnecessary would put me off going to Sevenoaks on a Sunday

I think charging for car parking on Sundays is purely mercenary. Please don't do it. Do you want to drive more people away from the high street?

Discusted! It will kill the business in Sevenoaks. Far too expensive.

The Sunday charging in Blighs at exactly the same rate as the rest of the week, having been free, is unacceptable. It is unfair on the businesses that rely on people visiting on a Sunday, and who often have to pay extra for staff to work on a Sunday. It will lead to the demise of the high street, which the council should be trying to promote. And it is unfair on people who at the moment at least have the option to pop into M&S for a few bits without being charged on a Sunday.

Arguments against: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I'm shocked that the council are implementing more charges to parking... mon-sat prices are already extortionate. It would be great to actually understand where this income is actually being spent/invested and what the justification for this change is? I grew up near Oxted, Surrey - a similar sized town which provides free parking year-round and still delivers a similar standard of public conditions as Sevenoaks... without charging the earth.

Awful. We have already lost so many independent shops. Fewer people will come when they can go elsewhere for free. Money will be wasted on extra traffic wardens anyway

As long as this charge ONLY applies to Blighs car park and ALL the other town centre car parks stay free of charge, I am not opposed to this for regular users. However, I feel it should stay free on a Sunday for disabled users who may need a centrally located car park for health reasons.

Why? It's so expensive to park any way during the week & now you set charging on a Sunday! I feel sorry for the local businesses that will suffer because of it!

We are all encouraged to shop locally but with parking fees the way they are going we might as well jump on a train and shop elsewhere. Very disappointed and our local council should be encouraging us to stay local not push us away.

It's wrong and will damage small businesses. Let's not have another shabby closed down High street as seen across uk.

It's a terrible idea. Parking is already difficult and expensive enough in the town centre and charging in this car park on Sundays will just put even more pressure on the very few parking spaces available for residents in zone A, where it's already virtually impossible to find a space on any given day of the week due to people parking to go to the shops. Please don't make the on-street situation even worse by taking away free Sunday parking in Bligh's car park.

1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

It's a shocking disgrace!! The shops in town struggle enough without more car parking fees.....not all of the shops open on Sunday but we pop down regularly for a mooch about and to buy lunch and often end up buying in the other shops too. The car park costs in town are high enough on the other days, at least let us have one days respite to be able to support local shops!!

It is already prohibitive to park in Sevenoaks. Competition with Bluewater will kill the town. Sunday charging will appear exactly what it is , greedy.

Do not charge on a Sunday. The general public WILL NOT benefit from this so don't dress it up as 'better management' of the car park with quicker turnover. People will stay as long as they need to stay.

To help promote trade in town I think the first 20 mins should be free. Paying on the way out would be helpful too.

Sevenoaks is just recovering from the recession and building up its reputation amongst commuters or stay in London to eat and shop rather than do so locally. Businesses small and large are coming back and slowly customers are returning too. Whilst I appreciate that local budgets are tight don't cut the blood supply off to the local businesses. If you don't live in the centre of town you have to drive there, free parking on Sunday attracts custom. I fear many will just go to Bluewater out of principle if they are forced to pay parking in Blighs, the most obvious and convenient of car parks. I encourage you to reconsider this change, for the sake of community spirit, support for you local businesses and for the reputation of Sevenoaks council. I fear this is just another token consultation as many have been, please do prove me wrong.

It will hurt our high street even more . People (including myself) will head to other town where parking us free. Enough we pay every day of the week

As a life long resident, dissappointed that you see the need to introduce this. Sunday's are a great family day in the town with Sevenoaks Rugby, lunches, coffee or shopping without having to worry about outstanding the parking meter.

Keep Sunday free!! Parking charges in Sevenoaks are too high anyway. Encourage shoppers to visit Sevenoaks by not charging on a Sunday and lowering the rates the rest of the time. If not shoppers would prefer to go to places like Bluewater where parking is free all the time and there's a greater shopping choice. So why not entice more people to shop in Sevenoaks by not being so greedy with the parking charges!!

Charging for Sunday parking is unacceptable. I already avoid shopping in central Sevenoaks because the car parks are over priced - I no longer use Sevenoaks library, for example. Your proposal is a pathetic attempt to exploit the severe shortage of parking in the district, a failure it is the Council's responsibility to remedy, not exploit. If you really wanted to encourage turnover of spaces you can easily have a max stay of two hours and no return within an hour, like many residential streets do.

I am supposed to the high charges already imposed at Blighs during the week and therefore only frequent the shops and restaurants on a Sunday due to the free parking option. Scrapping this and charging a ludicrous amount on a Sunday will just result in me never setting foot in Sevenoaks again. Bluewater, West Malling and other local areas,where parking is either free or minimal will be a far better alternative. One can hardly argue that there is anything specific to Sevenoaks you can't get else where or order online.

I totally disagree with the proposed parking charges for Blighs Car Park because: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (above or in the other thread, opinions have been collected in both) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage. This equates to thousands of local families. 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I think charging for parking in Blighs is a shocking idea and would certainly be the nail in the coffin for Sevenoaks high street. After all, with Tunbridge Wells and Bluewater so close why would you pay to go to Sevenoaks on a Sunday. Myself and my family just wouldn't bother.

I don't agree with the Sunday charge to the blighs. I think there are very few people who take advantage and extend their stay all day on a Sunday. As a frequent user of town (c.5 times a week) I rarely use blighs as it's cost is significantly more than others. As a mother of two children it's nice that one day a week I can pop into Sevenoaks and park centrally without being charged.

I think it will kill Sunday trade in town. It is only in the last few years that Sevenoaks has been open on Sundays. Bluewater which offers free parking will become more attractive - shop, eat and cinema in Sevenoaks or Bluewater? Also, once you charge for Blighs we know other car parks will follow. We're about to pop into town for one thing we need and to go to an independent coffee shop. If it cost us £2 we may decide not to bother. Evening charges already put me off eating in Sevenoaks and in favour of other local eateries. Car parking charges do influence where people go.

APPENDIX A

<p>It's absolutely outrageous that with parking charges already sky high weekdays the council should seek to impose charges on a Sunday. Eventually people will stop coming into the town</p>
<p>This does not encourage locals to use the town centre. Parking is overpriced as it is. The town will be empty on Sundays if this goes ahead.</p>
<p>I think it is detrimental to sunday trading and the prices are too high.</p>
<p>I really hope a charge will not be introduced for Sunday parking at Blighs. It is surely better for business to have one free day, it allows you to 'nip' in to a shop that you wouldn't go to if you have to pay for parking.</p>
<p>I think it's Terrible, half the shops aren't even open on Sundays so shouldnt be full cost.</p>
<p>Really upset - a very negative move when you should be trying to make Sevenoaks High Street more prosperous. It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.</p>
<p>I think it will be terrible for local businesses if Sevenoaks start charging on Sundays. It will stop people bothering to go into town if they have to pay for parking. I often pop into Sevenoaks on a Sunday as convenient and don't have to pay to park. Once the charges come in I will avoid doing this.</p>
<p>I totally against Sunday parking fees and think it's absolutely ridiculous that sevenoaks council is going to charge the public to park on a Sunday especially as no shops are open yet they still want more money. For what exactly??? The roads haven't been maintained properly, we've got no police manning our area making our crime rate go up, they turn off our street lights at stupid o'clock making it difficult for residents to see where they are going and feel they should focus our money being spent there also I'm deeply shocked a homeless man wasn't housed by the council in extreme freezing conditions. Their priorities are slightly amiss to me unless they are more focused on lining their pockets instead of helping the community.</p>
<p>The charges are overall too expensive and to be honest I have refrained from shopping at times as it is so expensive.</p>
<p>I feel it would be wrong to start charging on Sundays. There is no shortage of spaces whenever I go in on a Sunday, and the free parking encourages people to come in to town, and to spend time businesses around the town centre (whether shops, restaurants or cinema). For a family to come in for a meal and a trip to the cinema is very expensive in parking terms, and so Sunday provides a day for people who would otherwise think twice. Also, I think that some car parks should have longer limits than they currently do - I struggle to find spaces that allow enough time to take the kids to the cinema and the for a meal on weekdays during school holidays.</p>

Arguments against: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. Sevenoaks need to be kept as an attractive location and this makes Bluewater far more attractive. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (above or in the other thread, opinions have been collected in both) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage. (Not sure how scary this might be 😊) 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I won't be visiting on Sundays anymore for lunch if parking is charged! I find it shocking that on the 1 day that will be free parking - it will now be charged!!!

Unfair proposal Appears greedy Will stop me using local shops on a Sunday

Please do not add a Sunday parking charge for Blighs car park. It's the most expensive car park in the town and it's so nice to have Sunday a free day. Can the parking attendants stop the cars parking in the High Street on the double yellow lines from Cancer Research shop down to Wetherspoons. So annoying when you are queuing up at the traffic lights

To propose Sunday parking tariffs is scandalous in a town where parking prices are already overpriced. The problem is quite simply that there are not enough allocated spaces and charging people to park on a Sunday will not change this. All it will achieve is a Sunday ghost town with no one willing to venture into an already delapidated high street.

I feel that the car parking charges are too high. I live in Sevenoaks and very rarely shop in the town centre because the parking costs are too high. This is a shame because local businesses are deprived of my business. I think that Blighs car park need to reduce the parking charges not increase them.

This is a terrible decision and will put off a lot of people from spending their money on Sevenoaks high street! Even as it is it is a struggle for many businesses to survive and a lot of shops and restaurants and cafes close down. The proposed move will absolutely cripple the high street!

The charges are extortionate in the week and discourages shoppers and diners. I totally disagree with the introduction of Sunday charges I counter propose that charges should be reduced and removed after 6pm

I would oppose any increases on a Sunday on account of the following: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I think it's unfair to charge on Sunday's, seen as charges are soo ridiculously high anyway. It will damage the high street as people will choose to shop else were (with free parking)

Sunday car park charges

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience
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- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement
- 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison.
- 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network has many members who have expressed upset - a member proposal mentioned in group (above or in the other thread, opinions have been collected in both) to stop this extremely unpopular move includes contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage.
- 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I would like to support the parking charges as I live in apple orchard and it is a disgrace with the parking for train station! We have car park for us who ll've here so I'm hopping that the parking charges would not affect us! Please can you advise how local residents stand in the parking charges.

Please do give people another reason not to bother shopping in Sevenoaks. It's expensive enough.

I oppose we need to keep parking charging free in all car parks. When I've come to town on Sundays there are always free spaces in blighs. This will lead too overcrowding in the free car parks and harm the businesses in Blighs.

Completely disagree with the Sunday charges. Other local towns have considerably cheaper parking already on weekdays so free parking on a Sunday is a "perk" to use local businesses. Why would I potentially pay £10 for 4 hours parking in Sevenoaks to go shopping/have lunch when I can go to Bluewater and park for free and have a greater choice of restaurants and shops? Do you actually want local business or are you looking to become a "chain-store" town just like everywhere else?

1- people who work in the town would have to pay £10 for the day, which would mean they may find other work and cause shops to close. 2- the high street isn't full open many shops are closed. 3- it would make popping to support the local town harder £3 for 2 hours is going to hit many people and businesses hard and it will be easier to pop to bluewater or nugents to buy something than the local town 4- many people will stop using the leisure center and library as it would be too expensive to viist. 5- it will take trade away from the town especially over the weekends and many towns are free to park on Saturday and Sundays. 6- the parking fees do not seem to go towards the maintance of the care of the car parks the leisure center car park has ubeven roads and the lines you can not really see. 7- i certainly will not be going to the town if these changes take place, i will go to a town which has cheaper parking which is a shame as i love sevenoaks and all the shops which are there and the small market on Saturday.

I disagree with parking charges in Sundays. This is the only reason I shop in Sevenoaks on Sundays.

Charging for parking in Blighs on Sunday will impact on Sunday trade, and will particularly affect those with babies or young children who need to park centrally. I am against the introduction of Sunday charges in Blighs.

Parking charges in Sevenoaks mean I no longer shop or eat out there. If you shop and then meet friends/ family for lunch it costs £10! I can go to bluewater and park for free and wait as long as I like and it is not £10 in fuel costs. To charge on a Sunday is ridiculous and especially at same rate as far fewer shops open. The Sunday parking was mainly for eating out therefore all restaurants will suffer. I accept paying for parking is needed during the week/ sat but the prices could be halved! £5 for 3 hrs is just crazy. Shame you are killing the shops in Sevenoaks or only allowing shopping for the minority who can afford to park.

Increasing parking charges in the town will only mean more shoppers will go elsewhere which undoes all the efforts made by local and many independent businesses to bring trade to the town. There are already enough shops closing down with empty units popping up....Joules, Knole Furnishing & now Hoads to name but a few! Sevenoaks is a wealthy area so how about trying to encourage the residents of the town and surrounding areas to come in....otherwise you may as well just put up signage to Bluewater which is a simple 15 minutes drive away with free parking, far more shops not to mention countless bars and restaurants, cinemas etc. I notice there is signage up in Blighs car park trying to encourage people to stay & eat in Sevenoaks restaurants after shopping but if parking charges increase there will be less people coming in to use the restaurants too....all round increasing costs to park in the town is just a negative move.

I think they are too expensive already, without increasing the fee. I think charging on a Sunday will drive people away from Sevenoaks and will make them use shops, restaurants and facilities elsewhere. The Stag will suffer too, as going to the cinema/theatre is expensive enough already, without charging for parking on a Sunday. I for one will not pay to park and will either get the train or will drive to Bluewater. I love shopping in Sevenoaks, but the expensive car parking has driven me and a lot of my friends away from the Town.

Appears unwise and a bit short sighted and blinkered. It will give Sevenoaks an aura of very expensive parking across the board which I would expect will have unintended consequences. I would suggest that if this goes ahead, the council also announces its willingness to review the effect and feedback of this after 6 months and take stock at the end of 2017 with an open mind to possibly repeal it's decision or announce its decision not to do so with clear motivation as to why it would be so positive after all. This does not have to go through a referendum such as the proposed Surrey council tax hike but elections do come up. Has anyone thought of a park and ride scheme for Sevenoaks?

I disagree with Sunday parking charges in Blighs as this will have a detrimental effect on trade in shops and restaurants. Small shops may find trade goes down and without Sunday trading they have to close which would be a great loss to Sevenoaks. Parking charges are already extremely high compared to other towns like Oxted and mean that I find it cheaper to shop on the Internet than drive into town. Enough is enough.

Blighs car park is already extortionately expensive and charging for a Sunday will add another reason not to visit Sevenoaks. Especially when other shopping centres with a wider range of shops, restaurants and cinemas such as Tunbridge Wells and Blue water have free parking on a Sunday. Those working in the town will also have to pay more out of what are often low wages to park. I believe it will deter visitors to Sevenoaks and quite frankly appears greedy. Sevenoaks might present as an affluent town but not all residents are wealthy.

I manage a very large pub in town and rely on families on a Sunday for our Sunday lunch. This will have a huge impact on our trade .

Arguments against: 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking. 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it. 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive. 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday - customers might as well just go somewhere else guaranteed to be free. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same. 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair. 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison. 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network is outraged - proposals to stop this extremely unpopular move include contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage. 10) If it is £10 a day, people that work in retail that have to pay this to be able to work. It will cost each one extra £40 per month to go to work. That's £40 less money to support their families. Which could be £500 per year.

I think it is the worst idea Sevenoaks council have ever come up with. I don't come into Sevenoaks unless I have to because of the parking charges Monday-Saturday and now you want to charge us on Sundays?! For what?! Half the shops are not open and why would I pay to come in and have a coffee when I can go to tesco in riverhead and park for free and still have a coffee?! I can go to bluewater for the cinema and to eat AND park for FREE! It's a joke! Get a grip you are killing Sevenoaks town

Please see below my reasons as to why i am against car parking charges in sevenoaks- already we have the highest car parking charges of any town in the area, our high street is fading and these charges will just put another nail in the coffin of these buisnesses! Already these shops pay extortionate rates, and struggle to compete with bluewater and other centres with free parking!! Arguments against:

- 1) It will damage Sunday trading - families shop and eat for longer as they relax together. They will not pay to spend the same longer amount of time for full-priced car parking.
- 2) It's discriminatory to make people pay to park in this location and not others (with a young child, the central location is vastly better than the other car parks, and it offers parent and child spaces). Lower income families with small children will avoid shopping on the one day that they can currently justify it.
- 3) The trade for small shops will dwindle which may mean they are unable to justify opening on a Sunday, thus bringing down the overall appeal and value of the high street as a Sunday shopping experience
- 4) With fewer customers shopping and if they are forced to shut on a Sunday, small, independent shops may be forced out of business. Then only the large chains will survive.
- 5) It will be assumed this is the first step towards charging for all car parks on a Sunday. This unpopular move would see customers heading to Tun Wells Industrial Estate for shops and cinema, or Bluewater for the same.
- 6) Full price parking for a high street that's only half open? This is illogical and unfair.
- 7) Employing car park attendants to enforce - this will cost money to implement
- 8) Other small market towns like Oxted have free parking. Sevenoaks parking charges are high in comparison.
- 9) A local Mums group, Sevenoaks Mums Network is outraged - proposals to stop this extremely unpopular move include contacting the restaurants, retailers etc to explain that members will no longer be giving them their Sunday patronage.

I do not agree with this proposal. Local residents will be frustrated as people park outside their houses to avoid the charges. Local businesses will also suffer. We already pay a lot for the privilege of parking in Sevenoaks. I am presuming that the traffic wardens will be paid extra for having to work on a Sunday?

Charging on a Sunday is an absolute disgrace! Do the people at Sevenoaks Council think we are all stupid? How can you be so greedy. I will no longer be able to support my local shops as I will not pay these extortionate charges.

I am against a charge in Bligh's car park on Sunday, I believe the current system is not too complicated and parking is already expensive from Mon to sat.

Why charge on Sundays. Ridiculous. If you are trying kill local trade well done. Let's all go to blue water where it is free

It's absolutly ridiculous that people will have to pay for parking on a Sunday in Blighs! A lot of people shop in Sevenoaks because of free parking, if you put this into action then sevenoaks town businesses will loose a lot of money. I'm sure there's enough money in the pot (with your extortionate parking rate) to improve the management of Blighs. I can safely say that 99.9 % of sevenoaks people will firmly disagree with this and you are doing the wrong thing!!

I do not agree that charging for Sunday's is fair. The high street struggles enough and parking charges (especially in Bligh's) will discourage people from shopping/eating/drinking in town on a Sunday. It will affect independent businesses who likely do a lot of trade on Sunday while free parking is in place

Parking is too expensive in Sevenoaks. It puts people off using the town for shopping. Added to that is the lack of spaces and the parking for the station is a joke, complete under allocation for the need. Pushing commuters from outside the area to park in residential streets.

Pleased to learn that parking charges will be largely frozen. However charging on a Sunday will affect members of Grace Church which meets at Lady Boswell's school as many have to park at the Leisure Centre.

I am very worried about introducing parking charges on Sundays. The local streets are already being used by the rugby club other sports clubs and churches and it will make what is already a horrendous car parking issue by the rugby club worse.

Keeping prices the same is a good thing - no one likes prices increases.. however: Charging on a Sunday at Blighs car park seems a very bizarre idea which would be at the detriment of the community especially for those who attend church at lady boswells school or drop off and play or watch rugby at the rugby club. Currently the parking on Sunday mornings on the streets around the rugby club is unmanaged and several cars are on double yellow lines - many park at Blighs but by charging these cars more will move to street parking and being a Sunday several to double yellow lines which causes danger for the young and elderly. If accidents occur as a result of increased street parking perhaps due to more cars moving from safe car parking areas to streets, in particular say if these involve children walking out from their homes and hit by cars parking illegally, then is this a price worth paying for the council gaining £50-100k. Will the council then provide extra traffic wardens on the Sunday to ensure the streets are safe? It seems the social consequences and inconvenience caused to residents and the community for charging on a Sunday far out ways the economic benefits. Personally I would want to see a very clear case for justifying charging on a Sunday which shows the benefits to the community as a whole. If extra revenue needs to be generated I would calculate how much current week day parking needs to increase to cover this although no one like price increases...

They would immensely impact my ability to attend church, as it would leave the only free parking down Plymouth Road, leading to Lady Boswell's, and this is already used by the rugby club on a Sunday morning, to the detriment of our parking.

I have noticed you are introducing charges for Sundays in the high street and I think it's disgusting. You are failing the community and the local businesses including tourism with your blatant greed. I am opposed to this outrageous idea and want to raise a formal objection and complaint in response to this madness. Local business should be your focus and not the locals who bother visiting the high street. I look forward to your excuses and expect the need to escalate this further.

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Outrageous. So many small independent businesses have already been forced to leave the high st due to high rental charges, if you decide to start charging for parking on a Sunday it will result in even less custom for these already struggling business and more empty shops!

When we don't have to pay on Sundays we are reminded that life is ok and that the world is not as bad as it is portrayed by the press / media! We are reminded that there still are human beings with some heart in 'the system'. Life is so short and precious; moments like 'not having to pay for the parking' bring cheer to people and, for one day a week, and the other few days in the year, we can all breathe again and destress. So, for the sake of mankind, please go easy on how you squeeze us!

I think this proposal is a great shame. We want people to enjoy coming in to Sevenoaks town and not be put off. However we should all be diligent about parking within spaces and not straddled over lines .

Car parking prices are already excessive and if anything, to try to save the high street need to be reduced not also charged on a Sunday. I should state this change will not affect me as i always walk to town now as a) traffic management has been so poor and b) parking is too expensive. Nevertheless I do think a more enlightened approach is needed for the benefit of others.

I think car parking in Sevenoaks is really expensive and I would rather drive to Bluewater unless I am after something specific which I think is a shame.

I'm opposed to paying for Sunday parking in Blighes. The parking charges are already high and putting people of shopping in Sevenoaks high St. Sunday at least is free.

Absolutely appalling to introduce Sunday parking charges. I feel for the small, local businesses.

I disagree that parking cost should be added on Sundays to blighs. It will discourage people from using local independent shops and cafes.

I think it is completely unnecessary; I haven't found a proper reason to change the current scheme at all? Also, people will now park in front of residences instead of in the town itself which to me seems a lot more inconvenient for everyone involved. Also, it will probably lead to fewer people going into town and therefore less profit for retailers. And finally, I think it is already quite a nuisance how you you can, during the week, only park by the hour which make people end up paying far too much anyway and this newly proposed scheme to me only sounds like a way for the council to earn more money from parking fees and won't be of any advantage for residents.

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<p>Sundays should remain free. Otherwise I might as well drive to Bluewater to do my shopping, where I can park for free AND charge my electric car for free at the same time. There should be an incentive for people to come into Sevenoaks to spend their money and support local businesses. If Sunday parking charges are introduced, I would expect even more of the local businesses to shut on a Sunday, as some people, like me, won't come in if we had to pay for parking.</p>
<p>I do not agree with Sunday charges at Bligh's car park. The parking in Sevenoaks is already far more expensive than surrounding areas (Tonbridge for example) and the only 'perk' is free Sunday parking. Charging will make no difference with regards turnover of spaces because people shopping in Sevenoaks on a Sunday would only be there a short time anyway.</p>
<p>I disagree with the proposed parking changes. I feel Sevenoaks should continue to make Sunday special and not charge.</p>
<p>Sunday parking should remain free</p>
<p>A bad idea, it puts me off shopping and/or going to eat there if I have to pay to park! I will turn to bluewater instead where I know I can park for free.</p>
<p>I strongly disagree that parking charges would apply to Blighs Meadow from April. It is a great way to encourage use of shops and I personally find it very useful when popping in with my young children. I do not think anyone parks there all day and I have never found getting a space an issue.</p>
<p>Ridiculous. Parking in Sevenoaks is just getting higher and higher. Keep putting fees up, will lose people actually coming to Sevenoaks!</p>
<p>Ridiculous. People won't come and spend money in Sevenoaks now. I will go to Tonbridge or bluewater (free parking on Sundays). In fact, does anywhere charge on Sundays?!</p>
<p>The parking charges are already over the top and having an adverse affect on the high street shops and business. Why start charging more? What are you proposing to use the increased revenue for? I think even an introduction of 30mins/1 hour free parking would be better then putting charges in place thereafter would be more welcomed. Give a little and maybe just have a flat rate £1 fee for parking on a Sunday over and above 30 mins. Similar to the evenings. I think you would get more revenue this way as people would not mind paying £1 and most people don't stay in town for too long.</p>
<p>I feel the proposed Sunday charge is unnecessary and a real shame. The carpark is expensive enough Mon-Sat and I have never had an issue relating to the turn around of spaces. It could affect amount of business on a Sunday for local shops/ restaurants in the town. I believe it should remain free on a Sunday.</p>
<p>Awful idea, parking should be made more affordable to support local businesses</p>
<p>The high parking charges stop me using local shops in Sevenoaks during the week. I regularly use the Sunday free parking instead. You are killing local businesses and the town itself. Why?</p>

<p>Okay except for the proposal to charge for parking in Blighs on Sunday. I have never had an issue with parking on Sundays and would be interested in seeing the data behind the decision shared with residents. Sunday is the one day a week that residents can at least enjoy the centre without thinking of charges which are already quite steep.</p>
<p>I think it is very sad that there will be a charge on Sundays. 1. I only pop to Marks and Spencer to get bits because it is free parking on a Sunday. You can never tell if they are going to have stock in so I will not bother paying to find out they do not have what I want when it is just a few bits in the food hall. 2. Several shops have stopped opening on a Sunday because of bad trade and small outlets have left the town. Sunday is a day for just pottering around for a card or a coffee and we will not bother now, May as well go to a larger town or free at the Nugent or Bluewater. Sevenoaks town visitors are only parking to spend money in the town, not tourists sightseeing.</p>
<p>Outrageously expensive for centre of town located parking and as you don't offer parent and child parking in any of your other car parks it feels like you are discriminating against families using the town on a Sunday. I don't understand why you need to make these changes to Sunday parking - are you trying to kill off the Sunday trade in town?</p>
<p>Shocking, absolutely unnecessary we should be encouraging people to come into Sevenoaks not going elsewhere. It's bad enough it being so expensive during the week & Saturday. My husband works in Sevenoaks & can't park there !!</p>
<p>We will not dine out in Sevenoaks for Sunday dinner as we often do - will select a pub with free parking</p>
<p>Ridiculous! Are you trying to drive all small businesses out of Sevenoaks????? What about the poor residents? Take a leaf out of Bluewater as that's where I will be shopping from now on</p>
<p>It's ridiculous. Exorbitant charges and the quickest way to destroy and close down all the high street stores. Already I try to get everything online or from stores where I get free parking. Council needs to encourage the growth of businesses and not closing them down.</p>
<p>I along with many others feel that if the parking charges are enforced on a Sunday, that this will have a negative impact on local businesses. You only have to look at the comments on the Sevenoaks Mum's Network to see how the proposed decision has been received. Many of us will instead go to other market towns with free parking or else Bluewater. Sevenoaks businesses will unfortunately be the losers in this.</p>
<p>Please don't charge on Sundays in Blighs car park - it will just push people to park on local residential streets instead.</p>
<p>It is appalling that Sevenoaks District Council is proposing putting charges on Sunday in Blighs car park. It will hurt local trade, especially the independent shops. Sevenoaks is a lovely place to live and shop but it won't be if parking charges drive shoppers away.</p>

A disgrace. Far too expensive. A disincentive to travel into Sevenoaks and shop there. Also a disincentive to visit Sevenoaks for a meal, especially in the evenings or at the weekend. Why bother when other places are free to park and there's less traffic?

Appalling! If you want Sevenoaks to thrive don't put parking charges in for Sunday's. People will go to bluewater and lakeside places that have a great shop selection and FREE PARKING!

I'm against introduction of charges for a Sunday. I fear the town's shops are already suffering, and taking away free parking on a Sunday would cause more damage. Also, unless you plan to provide more long stay parking places, you also need to consider the poor people who work in the shops. My 19-year old daughter has a part-time job in Sevenoaks. She often struggles to get a space in long stay, which then means great expense to pay to be at work. Or it means family disruption to take and collect her to and from work, even though she can drive! Currently, at least she doesn't have this stress on a Sunday.

I think it's absolutely shocking! You are strangling our town and small businesses with outrageous parking charges already! Blights is already stupidly expensive. Leave Sundays ALONE for goodness sake.

It's so expensive anyway that I would rather go to bluewater or shop on line. If I go into Sevenoaks I currently go on a Sunday to avoid these charges. It's the local shops that suffer

I think the proposal to introduce charging on Sundays will impact negatively on community activities such as the rugby club, leisure centre and church attendance, all of whom use the car parks. There will be a knock on effect on residents as attendees park on street instead of in the car parks. Grace Church which meets at Lady Boswells school already vie with the rugby club for parking on a Sunday morning and we encourage our congregation to use Blights car park and walk through in order to avoid congestion. We have to park the school gate to prevent rugby club posting there, there is so much congestion. This proposal will make parking around Plymouth drive, knole way etc even worse. Someone from the council ought to come out there at 10 am on a Sunday morning and see the chaos.

I wouldn't call the introduction of full fees on a Sunday in Bligh's carpark a *minor* change. Bligh's is my preferred carpark as it has a few p&c spaces and is centrally located. If there are fees on a Sunday, I will think twice about bringing my family for our weekly lunch out. Living in a village, it only takes me a few minutes longer to drive to Bluewater than into Sevenoaks Without the benefit of free parking, I have less reason to support local businesses. I'll take advantage of the benefits Bluewater offers, instead.

We use blights to park on a Sunday morning to attend church so that the church car park can be left for elderly and those with very young children. I am against the proposal to charge for blights on a Sunday.

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It is ridiculous to still charge on. Sunday, it is already expensive to go on a weekday and easier to go to bluewater when the parking is free, we like to support local businesses but it is already so high to even go on a weekday, this is affect everyone... pls do not do it!

It's a total disgrace. As a resident of Sevenoaks town centre, I have been on a waiting list for a parking permit for almost a year and haven't moved up that list one place in all that time. The one day a week I am able to park close to my home, making my life with a small baby that tiny bit more convenient than it is the remaining six days where I have to walk for over a mile with a screaming child to collect my car, is Sunday. Instead of raking in further profits and fleecing anybody who needs to park in the town centre with your absurdly inflated parking charges via Sunday charges, perhaps you should focus your efforts on rectifying the existing parking problems in sevenoaks town centre, either by culling the existing permits from the kind of people who maybe used to live in the centre of town but no longer do, yet continue to keep their permit or by actually building extra spaces to accommodate the growing population of residents in the town centre.

Absolutely disgraceful and discriminatory - taking away the availability of free parking for parents with young children. Forcing them to pay as there are no other child parking spaces within the town centre. You are also killing the town with your greed.

Parking charges are far too high already killing local businesses. To have parking charges Sunday too is absurd. Keep free parking in Sevenoaks on Sundays.

Great idea..... I like the extra free parking at the council offices. Well done

Preposterous! We already pay so much to park up in Sevenoaks during the week, Sunday is the one day I can come up to Sevenoaks and enjoy milling about town with my family. I support local businesses in that time, and feel they'd really struggle if you did this.

I am very opposed to your proposal to charge for parking in Blighs car park on Sundays. I already think the cost of parking there is extortionate during the week and charging for evenings should not have been introduced either. We are losing all the lovely independent shops and businesses in town which is what makes Sevenoaks a nice place to live, they are being replaced with big chain stores with no character. I believe this is partly due to the rates being charged and because people are being charged more and more to park in town to make use of these businesses. Please don't further ruin our lovely town by charging people to park on Sundays.

I object strongly and will no longer park in this car park on a Sunday nor use the shops there. I will probably visit bluewater or the Nugent estate instead.

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I think they are already too expensive during the week which puts me off going in to the town and i think it would find a lot of businesses won't open on a Sunday if you enforce fees as most people won't go in to town or will park further out in residential areas so as not to have to pay I also think the council need to realise that yes Sevenoaks is a wealthy area but not everyone in sevenoaks is wealthy and the parking is geared towards people who are wealthy and it's unfair, we have a small town and are paying big city rates

Please don't charge for parking on Sunday it is the only day you can enjoy shopping in Sevenoaks for an extended period without paying high parking fees

I do not agree with the proposal to charge on a Sunday. I believe this will not encourage shoppers or restaurant/cafe goers to come to Sevenoaks. As a small town with not much open on a Sunday I think you are penalising both the retailers and those who don't live within walking distance of the town. I am fortunate to live within walking distance, however, with price tariffs on a Sunday this will push those who would normally park for free into those areas within walking distance. This then means no parking for those wishing to use facilities such as hollybush or local shops, once again penalising the local businesses.

This is a disgrace to the town. Sevenoaks receives ample funding from residents via parking charges and to hit residents/ visitors with yet more expense levies is disrespectful. Many people like using the central car park because they have small children or find it easier for mobility purposes (parent and child spaces are sorely lacking elsewhere). Is the council trying to kill local businesses and drive people to Bluewater? - because this is a good way to go about it!

I am unhappy about the change! Other rural towns such as Oxted do not pay for town parking at all and having to pay on a Sunday is very unhelpful and will ensure more people go to Bluewater and the town centre will receive much less customers.

Sevenoaks parking charges are already perceived to be high. My opinion is that this change will discourage shoppers further from a) parking in Blighs or b) using Sevenoaks town centre shops at all on a Sunday. It may also have an adverse effect on all other parking facilities in town. Such a shame....

I think it would be an awful shame to have to pay to park on a Sunday, there's only a handful of shops that actually open anyway so what are you paying for? It will just force locals to go else where. My family will not be coming in to town on Sundays if this goes a head.

Think the current fees are extortionate and encourage people to go elsewhere. There are few local businesses and steps like this make Sevenoaks less and less appealing both as a shopper and a business. Strongly disagree.

As a family of four we often go into Sevenoaks on a Sunday, shopping and going for lunch. The free parking is definitely an incentive for us. We've never had a problem getting a space, we generally use the Suffolk Way car park. Should a charge be introduced we wouldn't go into Sevenoaks as often and I'm sure we are not alone.

It would do the town a great disservice to introduce parking charges on a Sunday. The car parking during the week is ridiculously expensive and businesses suffer as a consequence. It often makes more sense to drive to Bluewater where there are more choice of shops and parking is free! Especially as it's so expensive to park and the meters offer no change people feeling continually cheated. Are you trying to ruin Sevenoaks community entirely?

I think it's awful to have to pay to park on and Sunday only day you can get away with the extortionate prices we normally have to pay, give us a break

I think it's a terrible idea to charge for Sunday parking in Bligh's. It's the one chance we have to visit the shops without paying the ridiculously high charges that exist in the car park on other days. The shops are not that busy on Sundays and so you will destroy what trade they have. Restaurants will be affected too.

Not fair. Parking is too much. Should be a lower rate for Sundays

Parking charges are killing businesses in Sevenoaks, pushing people to go to out of town places like bluewater or tunbridge wells for shopping, eating out and cinema. Sevenoaks will be poorer if businesses close. I think this is very short sighted of the council who will have less income in the long run when Sevenoaks is not worth visiting for shopping etc. As it is, I only visit town for specific purposes and don't stay to browse, eat out etc as the cost of parking is too much. Parking should continue to be free in Blighs on a Sunday and your proposal to charge a significant amount is not acceptable.

You will be killing off the life of restaurants and bars with these charges.

Never mind the proposed parking charges but I as a resident locally never go into sevenoaks town to shop solely based on parking charges, the lack of spaces & the sizes of spaces. I've a vauxhall meriva and most times I have to knock my door on another car to get myself and toddler out of it. I'm all for shopping locally and supporting local businesses but the parking puts me off. Blighs should be split half for disabled badge holders free and other vehicles should use other car parks ie south park.

Unacceptable, there should not be any parking charges on a Sunday.

I am saddened that the council is trying to administer charges for Sunday parking... If it goes ahead, which I very much hope it does not, I do hope that local businesses do not suffer as a result. We all pay plenty enough for parking across Sevenoaks and Bligh's is expensive enough as it is!

Very annoyed. if I decide to drive (if I'm late, dentist/hair/doctors appt, going to carry heavy stuff or the weather is v bad or my children r ill) I will have to pay most of an hours wage on parking. Sevenoaks is an expensive place to live at it stands (lowered the rents) and it seems like you just want to take more off us. The least u can do is increase the bus service pls. A few more no 8 buses in an hour would be v helpful. Thank u Also do I want to put off people from shopping in Sevenoaks?

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I head into Sevenoaks on a Sunday in order to avoid the extremely high charges in Blighs. Removing free parking in Blighs on a Sunday will reduce the number of free spaces available and cause chaos in those car parks where free parking is still available.

I am against them. The current charges are very expensive anyway and one day free parking makes a huge difference to both residents and local businesses.

I object to any charges being placed on Sunday parking. I think the parking charges in Sevenoaks are already too high and put me off visiting the town during the week and on Saturdays, hence I tend to visit on Sundays. If charges are enforced it will more economical for me to drive to another town or Bluewater where there are no parking charges

I think parking in Sevenoaks is expensive and personally it stops me shopping there as I can get to bluewater fairly quickly have more choice in shops and park for free. Charging for parking in a Sunday is also ludicrous as options are limited

The parking is already grossly over priced and discourages people including myself from evening going on to the high street. If Sunday's will now be charged too I won't be going into town at all. It's cheaper and easier to go to bluewater. This is a disgrace & it's ruining our high street.

So very wrong please don't kill our town any further , it is ridiculous to charge on a Sunday. You are just pushing people further out to blue water where it's free

I believe Sunday's should stay FOC. It's an incentive for people wanting to go out for dinner or a drink on a Saturday night to go to Sevenoaks, with the assurance they will be able to park their car in a safe car park overnight and not have to rush to collect it in the morning. It is something that Tunbridge Wells and other larger towns do not offer. It's not only good for Sevenoaks residence it is good for Sevenoaks businesses, otherwise people will start going to Tunbridge Wells or Maidstone where there is more options in restaurants, bars and pubs.

Your charges are already too high. Any increase is unacceptable and so is extending the tariff to Sundays unless your aim is actually to damage trade on Sevenoaks High Street.

Talk about killing a town centre. The charges are already too high. I try to avoid going into the town to shop anymore as the parking cost is out of control, especially in relation to the small amount of shops that are actually in town.

We have lost many small independent retailers from Sevenoaks over the last few years and I am convinced the high parking charges are a huge factor in this. Given the option many will choose other shopping destinations where parking is free or more reasonable. Free Sunday parking is a huge incentive for people to choose Sevenoaks as a shopping / eating out destination and by losing this Sevenoaks will just become a ghost town on a Sunday.

Ridiculous. Sevenoaks is only a small town and the shops needs its customers. Implementing these charges will have an impact on local business and less people will be willing to visit else and travel to other destinations for eating, shopping. The fees are extremely high. £10 for four hours parking is outrageous. If you have to implement parking fees they need to be dramatically reduced.

I will be shopping elsewhere if parking charges increase or become applicable.

Not supportive of this change - bad for residents, bad for businesses and bad for Sevenoaks.

It's not affordable as sometimes I go to town to shop in the cheap shops (charity or £1 shop) or have an orthodontist appointment which is aprox 1 hr long it costs me more to park than my shopping is! (U can never judge the ques or waiting times so always have to slow yourself extra time and half hour is simply not long enough!) town will loose slot of business busses would be cheaper and become over crowded! The meet ups for coffee with friends or family's would be less often as people would not want to pay then to top it all off those on benefits or low income would them struggle to afford what used to be free parking on Sundays!

I'm so disappointed to hear about the proposed changes to Sunday parking charges in Bligh's. As a mother of two small children, Sunday is the day we can all head into town to enjoy breakfast/lunch as a family, do a bit of shopping or head to the cinema for a Sunday afternoon film. I completely appreciate it represents a loss of revenue for Sevenoaks Council, but I strongly feel it would be a real loss for our community to no longer have access to central parking (essential when juggling pushchairs, scooters, shopping bags and wriggly toddlers) that doesn't have you checking your watch every 20 minutes. Parking in Sevenoaks Monday - Saturday is incredibly cost prohibitive, and genuinely affects my decisions about where to shop during the week; driving me online, or further afield. It would be really appreciated if you could consider the impact these proposed changes will have on the community and retailers in town as opposed to your profit margins.

This proposed change is very disappointing - at the moment we do actually pop in to our local shops & town on Sundays as we appreciate not having to pay the ridiculous parking charges that are there EVERY other day - even evenings. If these charges are upheld we will simply choose to shop elsewhere. Every time I park in another town or even London i am pleasantly surprised at how cheap the parking is by comparison - imagine how visitors to Sevenoaks view our town, they must think the Council is very greedy and probably do as I will do and shop elsewhere. Your job is to support local trade not drive it into the ground. No doubt though, your residents views will not be taken into account and this charge will be bulldozed through....disappointing to say the least!!

There is no need to increase Sunday parking space turnover in blighs. Adding (what are very expensive) car parking charges will be hugely detrimental to local independent businesses. Small businesses are already feeling the pinch, with increased supplier prices due to the fall in the value of sterling. Adding a parking fee on a Sunday also affects those on lower incomes, with disabilities and with young children who currently plan their visits to town around being able to park in the central blighs car park on a Sunday without the exorbitant fees. I think you would be surprised at just how many people this proposal would detrimentally affect.

Please don't introduce fees for parking at Blighs on Sundays - you are killing the Hig Street and local businesses! The average person wants to go for a coffee, shop and then lunch and you're making it unnecessarily expensive for them. And what about the poor shop workers who can't afford to park in town already! Please stop being greedy before you've completely killed off Sevenoaks Hig Street. Your proposals are the wrong thing to do for the community.

To whom it may concern, As a resident of Sevenoaks since 1989, I feel my views on the proposed parking charges are valid. There are many people including myself, who shop in the town on Sundays; purely because there are currently no parking charges. Many of us who work and reside in Sevenoaks are keen to support local businesses. The independent business owners struggle to survive on the High Street, this is not helped by the extortionate costs of parking. With the planned increase, Sevenoaks will suffer even further as people will no longer want to go to Sevenoaks to support the shops that are open on Sundays. Many of us enjoy breakfast, walks, shopping and family time in Sevenoaks on a Sunday. With the planned increase, I strongly feel that you will be putting yet another nail in the coffin of Sevenoaks high street. Over the years we have had a number of shops, restaurants, pubs close down. If you follow through with the proposed increase, I am confident there will be more closures and business losses. People will stop using the town on Sundays which will be a real shame. £5 for 3 hours, £10 for 4 hours any day of the week is unacceptable, but on Sundays it is outrageous. Please reconsider, don't take our free parking away from our community on Sundays.

Absolutely disgusting, you are killing our town, Sunday is a busy day in town, a nice day for a walk, lunch, shopping. If this is done I will no longer use my town, it would be cheaper in petrol to go to bluewater. You will also kill knole park.

I strongly disagree with making blighs a chargeable car park on Sundays. It is a very convenient car park for popping into town and encourages people to use the town on a Sunday. I feel this will have a detrimental effect on the footfall in the town and cause more small businesses to fail. There is no need to change this as you can always park and the charges are too much.

Free Sunday parking is hugely attractive to local residents in an otherwise hugely expensive car park. As the only car park with (albeit not enough) parent and child spaces I rely on using Blighs. However I will be put off using it on a Sunday if I have to pay this extortionate fee. Blighs is already the most expensive car park and I haven't noticed an issue with Sunday parking...this feels like a money-making exercise.

Free parking on Sundays encourages people to come into town for lunch and to visit the shops. Charging for Sundays will simply stop people coming into town and encourage even more people to go somewhere where they don't have to clock watch during a meal, or while watching a film. Bluewater will benefit from this short sighted fee extension. I think most residents have regarded the free parking on Sundays as payback for the high parking charges the rest of the week, and the ridiculous and unusual evening charges.

I think this is disgusting! I minimise the time I spend in Sevenoaks because of parking charges as it is! To say the increased charges on a Sunday is a 'minor' change is laughable. Do you really want to kill off Sevenoaks? You're going the right way to do just that!

The charges are ridiculous. The other car parks are tricky to use with a buggy and toddler. Sunday charging is going to kill business in Sevenoaks when it's just starting to get buzzy on a Sunday. It's lovely to go out for a spot of lunch at the nearby restaurants. You make enough money during the week from Blighs. If you must charge maybe £1 for 4hrs or something. It will also affect the pubs on a Sat night as lots of people leave their cars there and get a taxi home knowing that they can pick it up when sober the next day.

I do not think it is right for the council to be charging people to park on Sundays. This is the one day where people get to shop without the worry of the added cost of parking, Blighs car park is already the most expensive one out of them all and I avoid at all costs. This is except Sunday's where I regularly go shopping and support the local businesses because of the free parking. As a Sevenoaks resident I think already pay enough without the added charges of parking on Sundays. The council has already increased the evening rate to £1.50 instead of £1.

Sevenoaks car parking prices are already much higher than most other boroughs. The one gesture of good will you offered (free parking on a Sunday). Is now being taken away. Disgusting and greedy. £10 for 4 hours is ridiculous. How about trying to help the local businesses a little and not putting people off coming into town for coffee or lunch because they can not afford to park!!!

Preposterous. It will stop me shopping in town on a Sunday, which I do simply because it's cheaper so to do than during the week. No more using The Stag, going for lunch with the family in the town, browsing with my daughter before meeting up with the Sevenoaks Rugby boys for coffee. Nipping for top up shops in M&S. Hello - just avoid.

I think its absolutely disgusting that you are planning on charging for parking on Sundays. They have always been free and this should not change. Your ridiculous prices are already stopping lots of people from shopping in Sevenoaks and supporting our local town (I for one would sooner travel to Orpington for the cinema rather than the Stag Theatre due to the parking charges). This really does sadden me, however, your prices are just crazy. We have lots of independent shops in Sevenoaks and you are just ruining their trade with these prices. Perhaps you could do more to fine people that park in the mother and baby spaces when they don't have children rather than putting this pricing structure in place! I don't agree with charging to park on Sunday's - it's bad enough prices to pay for the rest of the time and you are just driving people to Bromley, Bluewater and other areas where parking is much cheaper!

Inforceing parking charges on a Sunday will have a detrimental effect on the town. We have had so many business close down over the years, and this Sunday parking will just further reduce the custom to the town. Parking charges are already high, which is why a lot of us chose go on a Sunday to save on parking costs. I am aware there are other car parks but these are not as convient, especially for those of us with young children.

I think getting rid of the free parking on Sundays is ridiculous. Never mind charging people the same as the rest of the week. Our town is dying. Business don't want to open in our town because people can't afford to park, half the time, for longer than an hour. So they use Sundays to come up. Myself and family members included. The current prices are also disgusting.

Very disappointed to see the proposed introduction of parking charges in Bligh's car park on Sundays. The free parking at this location is a major incentive for Sunday shopping in Sevenoaks town centre for me, and for many other local residents too. For parents with young children, like myself, the central location of this car park along with the parent and child parking offering makes it a much more convenient and practical parking choice. For this I am prepared to pay the higher level of parking fees during the week and on Saturdays, but feel it is discriminatory to charge for parking here on Sundays when it will remain free in other car parks.

With regard to the proposed Sunday charging at Blighs car park in town, I would like to register that I'm totally against the charge and I think it should remain free to park there on a Sunday - but as a compromise maybe with a 2 hour limit rather than 4 hours to ensure that there is a turnover of parking available. I also think that it should be free to park there on public bank holidays. With so many coffee shops, it's nice to be able to go into town to browse around and have a drink/something to eat without having to think of the extra cost of parking, and that's particularly nice to be able to do that on a Sunday, because we pay enough to be able to use that particular car park on other days of the week. I think that if a charge is introduced in Blighs then it won't be long until other car parks in the town become the same and it will put people off visiting the town when there are other options (such as going to Bluewater) with free or cheaper car parking.

This will ruin the town! People come for coffee, leisurely lunches and a browse around on a Sunday. They don't do that now if they have to pay to park. This really is an outrage, for whatever reason you've decided to do this, it's not a good enough one!

Charging on a Sunday for Blight seems a little short sighted as it will just cause overcrowding in the other car parks and may drive people to Bluewater etc instead if they can't find a free space. Why don't you bring back Park and Ride?

I am against it. I used to pop into Sevenoaks at least 5 times a week for a coffee or to top up shopping, amble along the high street and wander in and out of the shops. The parking costs have escalated to such a degree I now only go to Sevenoaks maybe once a week and then generally on a Sunday so as not to pay the exorbitant parking fees. To charge for parking, even only at Blighs, will further push me to shop elsewhere. The reason for this being as that by charging to park at Blighs the majority of shoppers will attempt to park in the other 'free' parking areas which are already unpleasantly busy. I went to Oxted the other day as needed something there specifically and what a pleasure. Free parking in a large parking area just off the high street. And the funny thing was it was a Saturday morning.

Applying charges on a Sunday is going to make no difference to the busyness of the car park, I think it is ridiculous that you are thinking of applying charges. It's Sunday! People still need to spend time in town at the weekend and that won't change just because you are charging a stupid amount of money! It's just another way of the council making more money. We need bigger car parks and more all-day car parks at cheaper prices. Not everyone that lives in Sevenoaks is loaded.

Expensive for Sunday parking as many shops do not open. Will not continue to visit the town if these changes happen.

The close proximity of Blue Water and other larger out of town retail options all offering free parking, coupled with the ease of travelling to London with a huge variety of entertainment, retail and more makes this a short sighted and very unwise move. Everyone knows that parking charges hurt local businesses, and drive residents to consider other out of town choices. Why go to The Stag Theatre / Cinema when I can go to Tunbridge Wells with more choice and park for free? Why shop in our town, when I can go to Blue Water and again have more choice and park for free? It is actions like this and many similar that are destroying our high street and sucking the soul out of the town. It is bad enough that local businesses and services have to contend with inflexible and high business rates and fierce competition from online eTailers. If anything the council should be looking to extend the free parking periods and perhaps introducing 15-20 minute free parking places to encourage more use of local businesses. The parking policy of the council is both draconian in policing and unimaginative in execution. I'd be very happy to expand my thoughts for the creation of a vibrant town centre that benefits all.

WTC are happy with SDC's proposal of freezing charges in all of its car parks in Sevenoaks, Swanley and Westerham from next April and that all season tickets, permits and vouchers will remain the same price too. WTC also supports free parking being preserved on street and in all other car parks in Sevenoaks town to help workers in the Town. We do not feel able to comment on bringing in Sunday charges to Blighs car park.

Why is there a surcharge to pay by phone?

I totally object to introducing Sunday charges in Blighs. Completely unnecessary and unwelcome.

We desperately need increased numbers of low cost parking - the proposed multi-story car park outside the Sencio centre is a great idea. Night time charges need to be scrapped and Sunday should remain free - those charges already do mean I sometimes go elsewhere than Sevenoaks. Otherwise: £1 an hour just seems a bit expensive - not for shopping but eating and leisure activities - 30 min is fine but I never use it as it is never long enough.

Jesus, stop it will you. Free parking on Sundays and evenings after 6 is a must. You have allowed the high street to be overrun with hairdressers (average appointment time for ladies is between 2-3hours) restaurants (average dining experience is 2-3hours) coffee shops (average stay 1-2hours), so short term parking will soon become redundant! It should be free for the first 30minutes, this will encourage short term - not increasing parking charges which are already astronomical! If you increase charges for long term parking then surely all the restaurants and hairdressers you have allowed to overrun the high street will soon not turn enough profit to cover the astronomical rates you charge!