

CHRISTMAS PARKING 2019

Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee - 29 October 2019

Report of Chief Officer Finance & Trading
Chief Officer Environmental & Operational Services

Status: For Consideration

Also considered by: Cabinet - 7 November 2019 Council - 19 November 2019

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report requests that the Committee considers free concessionary parking on select dates at Christmas 2019.

This report supports the key aims of:

The effective management of Council resources and supporting and developing the local economy.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Margot McArthur

Contact Officer(s) John Strachan, Ext. 7310

Recommendation to Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee: That proposals for free parking in Sevenoaks town over the two weekends leading up to Christmas 2019 be considered by the Committee and its views be submitted for consideration by Council and the cost of funding this be met from Supplementary Estimates.

Recommendation to Council: That the Council considers the views of the Committee and if minded to agree to these proposals, that it authorises the cost of funding be met from Supplementary Estimates.

Reason for recommendation: To help encourage shoppers and other visitors to Sevenoaks and Westerham, in the busy shopping period leading up to Christmas 2019.

Introduction and Background

- 1 In previous years the Council has helped encourage shoppers and visitors to Sevenoaks and Westerham by giving free parking in car parks and on street parking bays on two Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.
- 2 Free parking is proposed in all Sevenoaks town car parks on the two Saturdays leading up to Christmas in December 2019 and free parking in Blighs car park which is the only charged car park on the two Sundays before Christmas.

Location	Date
Sevenoaks	Saturday and Sunday 14 and 15 December 2019
	Saturday and Sunday 21 and 22 December 2019
Westerham	Saturday 14 December 2019 (Sundays free)
	Saturday 21 December 2019 (Sundays free)

- 3 To help maintain parking turnover in Blighs over the two weekends, the maximum stay in Blighs will be reduced from 4 to 3 hours.
- 4 Relaxing parking charges on weekends has no impact on Swanley or at Knockholt Station as charges only apply Monday to Friday.
- 5 This is regarded as being of particular importance in light of similar initiatives operated in other towns in neighbouring Districts.
- 6 Vehicles parking for free are still required to observe maximum periods of stay in car parks and on street.
- 7 Regular monitoring will endeavour to ensure compliance with the maximum stay periods in car parks and on-street, to ensure that space is not monopolised by all-day parking by shop workers.
- 8 Weekend free parking will be promoted for shop workers in the Council Offices staff car park accessed from Gordon Road.
- 9 As in previous years Senico Community Leisure whose parking areas form a part of the Suffolk Way car park have participated in these events, they will be invited to participate again.

Background Information

- 10 The estimated shortfall in income over the two days is estimated at £16,500.

Other Information

- 11 Members are advised that, as in previous years, the Cleaner and Greener Portfolio Holder has allowed free evening parking for Christmas Light and late night shopping events.
- 12 We await confirmation from Westerham Town Council on what special parking arrangements if any will be required.

Location	Date
Sevenoaks	Friday 29 November 2019
Westerham TBA	Thursday 28 November 2019

Key Implications

Financial

- 13 Shortfall in parking income of £16,500 to be met from Supplementary Estimates.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

- 14 Management of “overstay” parking is difficult when there is no requirement for a ticket to be purchased and displayed.

Equality Impacts

- 15 There is a low risk that the proposals in this report would have any implications under the Equality Act.

Community Impact and Outcomes

- 16 Free Christmas parking is a local initiative popular with residents, visitors to the district, businesses and traders, and supportive of local economic vibrancy.

Human Rights

- 17 There are no human rights issues or implications.

Appendices None.

Background Papers None.

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Chief Officer Finance & Trading

Richard Wilson
Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services