

Appendix 1 - Consultation Responses.	
Comments	Area
I have an artists studio in Sevenoaks High Street. I struggle to pay the parking costs and have had to consider giving it up - which would have a disastrous effect on my practice. All day free Sunday parking has been my saviour. I often meet people at the Pay Point saying how expensive it is. I live in Farningham and my friends rarely shop in Sevenoaks. Otford for girls lunches and Bluewater for a full days shopping and coffee - no massive parking fees. It would put me off stating a gallery in Sevenoaks.	Dartford
I don't agree with charging on a Sunday the parking charges in Sevenoaks are extortionate already.	Dartford
I don't use Sevenoaks because of your disgusting charges,	Dunton Green
Personally I would have supported a small increase in parking charges as a means for the Council to increase income so as to protect other services	Halstead
Sunday charges will greatly affect our high street. We are losing businesses without the council exacerbating the situation. On Sundays the car parks are full which reflects the publics' opinion.	Kemsing
Definitely NO to charging on Sundays!! This will deter people even more to visit the shops and restaurants on Sundays.	Kemsing
Reduce current charges and continue free Sunday parking Also make evenings free	Kemsing
If you start charging on Sundays, you will kill off the town completely	Kemsing
Yes, freeze charges. No don't introduce Sunday charges. The fees are already more than high enough to maintain the car parks and you know it. Introducing Sunday fees will directly affect both the hospitality industry in the town as well as the taxi businesses.	Kemsing
No to Sunday charges. Sevenoaks high street has so little to offer and you're charging for the privilege to shop in 'privilege' shops!	Kemsing
I dont support this proposal. The highest Reeth is struggling already, this would add more pressure to struggling businesses	Kemsing
I am totally AGAINST Sunday parking charges . Traders will suffer in what is a hard trading environment	Kemsing
Stop sun charging and keep free parking	Kemsing
Freeze all and no to Sunday People will go elsewhere	Kemsing
Do not start charging on a Sunday for goodness sake!	Kemsing
Presumably, to police parking offences on a Sunday, the wardens will be paid an out-of-social wage.	Kemsing
In favour of freezing charges. I am not in favour of introducing parking charges on Sundays. It is important to keep this free to support the local economy.	Orpington
Sunday should always remain free to park in Sevenoaks. The charges on other days need to be reduced to attract more shoppers to the town. I pay a fortune in Council Tax to the council, why should I pay more to shop in Sevenoaks? I don't even get street lighting where I live. And the bus service is useless.	Otford
Sevenoaks is very quiet on a Sunday. It would be great if more shops would open on a Sunday to make it a place people can go for all their shopping needs.	Otford

Introducing Sunday parking charges will deter people from shopping in Sevenoaks on a Sunday rather than attract them	
I disagree with the introduction of Sunday charges. You have killed the town centre.	Otford
Please do not bring in Sunday charges. My family and I save visits to Sevenoaks for a Sunday as 1. We can't afford the parking rates the rest of the week. 2. I have mobility issues but are not eligible for disabled badge. I cannot walk much distance as from the Council Offices. 3. We don't have public transport that can allow us to visit Sevenoaks and shop. 4. What affect will this have on local businesses and shops? SDC were so supportive of them during the pandemic, this proposal is really a shame... sell your offices if you are in need of the cash!	Otford
Please do not introduce charges on a Sunday. Daily parking costs are a massively huge burden for low income self employed workers like myself. This will add to our weekly costs. Access to the workplace is currently easier on a Sunday for loading and unloading without time restrictions and costs. This proposal is not welcome. It will impact negatively on visitors to the town, and workers in the town on a Sunday.	Otford
sundays should be free.	Riverhead
The high street is a hub for local residents, but those needing to drive are now avoiding visiting due to the charges. They think it is easier/cheaper to drive to Bluewater so the charges are causing problems. I do understand that you need income to maintain them, but people are now driving further out to park on residents roads. I live on Lea Road, TN13 1QP and the anti-social parking on this road is devastating the neighbours but it is easy and free parking for access to the high street and knole park. What I would suggest is that you put resident parking in these roads and then you can do penalty charges for any anti-social parking. We have had to report the cars on numerous times to the police when it would be better to have restricted parking which would also mean the council would get an income if it were abused.	Sevenoaks
I find the parking charges introduced last year to £2 extortionate. I now avoid town. It makes me rush my shopping when I would prefer to spend more time in town or have a coffee. I don't agree with Sunday charging - it really will make me stay at home more or go elsewhere.	Sevenoaks
I am certain that sunday trading in Sevenoaks will suffer as a result.	Sevenoaks
Shocking, another way to tax local people who are trying to support local businesses. There is no need to charge on Sunday's, as a council you should be ashamed of yourselves. If this is implemented then we will stop shopping in Sevenoaks and happily travel to outside free shopping centres.	Sevenoaks
Don't make it harder for traders. No charges on Sunday should not change	Sevenoaks
I do not agree with this, it is already expensive to park for any length of time in Sevenoaks and introducing parking charges on a Sunday would prohibit people from parking. Sevenoaks is already dying and I feel this would be the nail in the coffin for the town centre.	Sevenoaks
The parking in Sevenoaks has increased over the past couple of years . Increasing the charge will I believe make the retail shops that are open suffer	Sevenoaks

<p>I appreciate costs are rising, but this is happening with everything and if you introduce Sunday charges it will kill the High Street even more than it I'd affected already. People would sooner use petrol to travel to Bkuewater, for example, than pay for parking. Its the principal of the thing..this will definately stop people coming to the High Street The High Street is already quieter on a Sunday with quiet a few shops closed Please don't do it If anything please reduce the coats during the week and Saturday</p>	<p>Sevenoaks</p>
<p>I am against these Sunday charges as it adversely affects those within the faith communities who use the car parks to attend church services in the town.</p>	<p>Sevenoaks</p>
<p>I wish to object to the introduction of Sunday charges alongside the Vine in Hollybush Lane. Parking from here will be displaced to the Drive preventing elderly members of the congregation at the Drive Methodist Church from parking anywhere near the church. This already happens if there is a major event at the Rugby Club. Other churches in the District may be affected in a similar way as few have large car parks</p>	<p>Sevenoaks</p>
<p>Parking costs are already so high in Sevenoaks, making Sunday chargeable will mean fewer visits into town, which is a huge shame. Do freeze the charges but also keep Sundays free.</p>	<p>Sevenoaks</p>
<p>This is a terrible idea. I live in Sevenoaks and find the steep walk from St John's tough going so Sunday in the one day I look forward to spending just a hour or so in town. Perhaps a minimum stay period instead to stop people using it for anything more than the town centre? Please think about our mental well-being. I live alone I, paying higher rent and cannot afford to pay charges on weekdays. Thank you.</p>	<p>Sevenoaks</p>
<p>I believe parking charges should be frozen and also that there should be no Sunday charges and there should absolutely be a facility to pay by cash. Not everybody has a credit card. Huge numbers do not. Not everybody understands parking machines believe it or not. People with disabilities may encounter problems. Not everybody in the area is lucky enough to have spare monies to keep paying for parking. There are hardly any buses let alone on a Sunday which is dire . We have a cost of living crisis and even though Sevenoaks has pretty high rates and many houses will be in higher tax band, there should still be sufficient monies to enable free Sunday parking to bring people into the town to spend and keep the town alive. I have friends that come into Sevenoaks by car who are unable to walk far especially with shopping so obviously cannot use the Council free carpark. Some are pensioners who again are on limited income and popping into town is something that helps their mental health. Paying more is not helpful. Also this is not about clean air. It is about the Sevenoaks Corporation trying to raise more money from residents. I already pay about £4k a year for my property and paying for Sunday parking should not be on the Council's agenda in my opinion. I personally have health issues sometimes very difficult and although I live in the town and can get help I am very mindful of other people's problems</p>	<p>Sevenoaks</p>
<p>Sorry to see Stag Car Park move to Sunday charging, as this puts up the cost to people involved in concerts/shows at the Stag Theatre, and may reduce audience sizes as well. I can understand the need to limit time for shoppers to increase turnover, but if one is parking for a rehearsal and performance, moving the car and hoping to find another space after 4 hours (no return within 2 hours) is not practical.</p>	<p>Sevenoaks</p>
<p>Absolutely not</p>	<p>Sevenoaks</p>
<p>It is an absolute cheek to consider this proposal. The council should be encouraging people to come into town, not charging them.</p>	<p>Shoreham</p>

Laudable to freeze parking charges, but to introduce parking charges on Sunday is just another nail in the coffin of a town that is dying in front of our very eyes.	Shoreham
I understand why you feel the need to do this but for someone like myself who has no off street parking available and you do not provide a permit for the carpark I have to use as a resident everyday I find this unfair, it already costs me £25 a week to park. If you do bring this new Sunday charge in the maybe you should consider making permits available for the park road carpark in swanley.	Swanley
As a worker in Sevenoaks town centre, I'm paying £22 a week (average) to park to go to work, working out at over £1000 a year. I believe there should be some kind of cheaper permit that allows workers in the town centre to park at a greatly discounted rate, after all, without the shops and shop workers there would be no town centre. With weekends there are sometimes no spaces left in the free council office parking, meaning having to pay for parking in the multi storey, adding further to costs. The guaranteed free parking on a Sunday with the multi-storey is at least a day with no parking charge. I know there is the season parking tickets, but that is a huge pay out for a minimum paid retail working to pay out, and I feel we're being penalised for working in an affluent area. Perhaps better use of traffic wardens, such as not having 3 in the same car park at the same time (which I've witnessed on multiple occasions) would mean more car parks covered and therefore more charges issued to raise funds. I'd also like to highlight with the previous council/council leader, who was there for many years, was able to run the car parks without the Sunday payments, so what's changed?	Tonbridge
I have to work on Sundays and it is the only time I do not have to pay for parking. As it is a charity I work for the pay is not very high and an extra days parking may mean I need to find another job. It is already discouraging customers from coming into Sevenoaks so it would seem you do not wish anyone outside of Sevenoaks to come into the town.	Tonbridge
Although you say you are freezing the charges it now costs a minimum of £2 to park whether I wish to only park for 30 mins or 2 hrs. Please bring back the one hour charge or I will continue to drive on to the out of town shops rather than support local high street.	Unknown
The high street is dying out because councils keep increasing cost of parking across the nation. Sevenoaks is already a dying town. To introduce Sunday parking charges when the cost of parking is already astronomical will be the final nail in the coffin. The parking charges should be frozen and no Sunday charges should be added. This will spell the end for more businesses. It is greedy and targets consumers and businesses and soon the high street will be just places to eat, charity shops, coffee shops, hairdressers and estate agents. Please do not introduce any more charges or hike them, you have already charged too much and extended until 8.30pm!	Unknown
You've killed Sevenoaks high street with the highest parking charges in the area, unless you're looking for an estate agent, charity shop or optician. So all I can say is well done mission accomplished	Unknown
It's blatant revenue raising. I will never pay to park in Sevenoaks.	Unknown
I think free parking is great on Sundays lots of Sunday shoppers	Unknown
No	Unknown
This is an excellent idea from the council and will help local shops across the district.	Unknown
none	Unknown

<p>Westerham Town Council is strongly opposed to the introduction of parking charges on Sundays. Whilst we welcome the freeze on other parking charges our town has already suffered by the loss of the free parking period in the Darent Car Park and we believe the introduction of Sunday charges at a time when businesses are still recovering from the effects of Covid will: Have a negative impact on businesses for whom Sunday is an important trading day. Imposing parking charges is likely to mean people will choose to shop or visit restaurants, pubs and eateries in other areas where there are no charges. We note that the neighbouring town of Oxted has no charges. Deter visitors from stopping and social groups from meeting in Westerham hence further impacting businesses. Impact on vulnerable members of our society who rely on their cars for social activities. Impact on parents / guardians taking children for sporting activities which occur on Sundays. We ask that SDC reconsiders this course of action.</p>	<p>Westerham</p>
<p>I believe that you are doing all you can to drive footfall away from the town and close even more businesses. You can only be suggesting a freeze as you are embarrassed by the massive hike within the last year. The parking restrictions are encouraging people to shop in retail parks outside of towns where the parking is free. The parking is too restricted and if you follow Bromley and Brighton's stance of getting rid of cash you are further preventing older people from enjoying a day out</p>	<p>Westerham</p>
<p>I think it's a tragedy what you're doing to our high st. Our businesses are already struggling and a few more in westerham are about to close down. I don't know how you think introducing Sunday parking fees will help anyone.</p>	<p>Westerham</p>
<p>Totally against this stealth tax it is killing the high street</p>	<p>Westerham</p>
<p>The town businesses are struggling enough - ridiculous idea.</p>	<p>Westerham</p>

Proposal to charge or Sunday Parking Further to the proposal by SDC to introduce parking charges in Westerham on Sundays, the Westerham Town Partnership (WTP) would like to make the following comments. This proposal has received a resoundingly negative response from businesses, residents and visitors to Westerham. WTP has studied the minutes of the SDC Cabinet meeting of 12th Oct 2023 and press releases that were published online and the Parking Accounts for the last four years. It is evident that income from parking charges and fines together not only covers the cost of providing parking but regularly generates an income that is three times the cost. In the year before Covid it was nearly 5 times. In the last financial year (2022/23) the report shows the overall cost of providing parking in the Sevenoaks District was £776,064 and the income was £2,333,405, thus generating a surplus of £1,557,341. We are therefore puzzled to read in the KM website (our comments are interleaved in red): Cllr Margot McArthur said: “Despite significant increases in our costs, we have taken a decision to freeze all parking charges from April because supporting residents, businesses and visitors is a top priority for the Council”. “At the same time, as part of setting a balanced budget, we will introduce our standard charges on Sundays at all our parking locations. With a growing Sunday economy, it’s only right that customers who use our parking facilities contribute towards their upkeep”. We would love to see some evidence that there is a growing Sunday economy in Westerham - we certainly wish it were so. “Ending most free parking also supports our efforts to tackle climate change by encouraging more people to visit our towns using sustainable forms of transport.” With all respect, invoking climate change is stretching the credibility of your argument. That apart, there is virtually no viable Sunday public transport for visitors to Westerham. “However, we will still offer free weekend parking in our staff car park a short walk from Sevenoaks town centre.” We assume this is Gordon Rd which has 146 spaces. Well, we would like to see a similar concession made for visitors to Westerham.

WESTERHAM DARENT CAR PARK We propose that Darent Car Park should have free all-day parking, like SDC offers at the Gordon Rd Car Park in Sevenoaks. All Westerham townsfolk we spoke to felt that SDC had treated us badly when it withdrew the established practice of the first 3 hours being free Monday to Saturday. WTP wrote an extensive report on Parking Amenities in 2013 which is still on the Visitwesterham website. Free parking for first 3 hours creates a strong incentive to stay longer. Promoting the use of the Darent car park also helps generate more short term parking in the town centre and encourages first-time visitors. The short walk through the churchyard helps visitors to consider how they might like to spend their time.

SUNDAY IS DIFFERENT Sunday must surely be the day to stop hurrying and worrying and relax. Sunday should be the day for a family walk and a day to try a new path and risk getting lost, leaving enough time to stop for a tea on the way back - without worrying about overrunning the parking you paid for. Getting back and finding you’ve got a ticket is likely to ruin the whole day. And please don’t forget Sunday morning football in King George’s Field. Improving the amenities in the field has been a major project for Westerham and we hope it will bring lots of visitors who might like to walk into town for lunch.

THE WESTERHAM ECONOMY and FOOTFALL Footfall is the key to making our economy viable. We often hear of people who discover Westerham and say “let’s try to stop if we can find a parking place” and then drive on through. How can we ensure that they try to come back another day? It is generally agreed that Westerham’s main assets are the countryside, our shops and restaurants, our heritage and our warm and friendly community. We will never

Westerham

have a train station and there is little likelihood of a decent bus service, especially as commuting patterns have changed so dramatically now that everyone wants to work from home, for at least part of the week. Decisions about parking charges, like so many other things, should never be made in isolation, without regard to the question "How does the local (Westerham) economy work?" This was the subject of the KCC Healthcheck back in 2008. It was an audit of Westerham taking in the economy, transport, social life and the environment. It's still out there at www.visitwesterham.org.uk/community/town-council-partnership/the-healthcheck Fifteen years on, there is a strong case for re-running the exercise. WTP looks forward to working with SDC and WTC to address all these issues and will continue to lobby to ensure that Sunday parking remains free in Westerham.

5 January 2024 It seems this portal won't accept any text colour or other mark-up. We've emailed the original Word document to SDC Stuart Merrylees, Director Westerham Town Partnership. info@visitwesterham.org.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council wishes to record the following concerns with the proposals: - The term "freeze" is misleading, as the charges will be increasing by a seventh due to charges being introduced for Sundays, - The Town Council has been approached by various High Street retailers who are concerned that the introduction of Sunday parking charges will cause significant losses to local businesses, as Sundays form a significant portion of their trade. - Community activities will be negatively impacted by the Sunday charges, for instance church visitors, those attending care-homes or family visits. - Car parking charges are a deterrent to shoppers, especially as Bluewater has free car parking and more choice. Exacerbating this by introducing car parking charges on the one day that shoppers could previously visit the high street for free will have a significant impact on retailers and market holders. Sevenoaks Town Council emphasised that local businesses and market holders should be supported. This could be achieved by introducing differential parking charges during market opening hours, or by providing one free hour of parking. It was also noted that Westerham's on street parking, which is run by the District Council, is significantly cheaper than in Sevenoaks. The Town Councillors wished to know why Sevenoaks residents appear to be supplementing a higher portion of parking charges.

Westerham

<p>I am a trustee of our local church- St Mary, The Virgin, Westerham. Many elderly and frail worshippers visit the church on Sunday. I am appalled at that idea that they may in future have to pay to come to our church. The church provides much excellent work to many charities- the Westerham Food Bank, The Children's Society, The Royal British Legion, Porchlight, Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees, to name but a few. Our community relies on such support please do not charge us to park on Sundays - this will not help our church and numerous other organisations/businesses in Westerham</p>	<p>Westerham</p>
<p>I object to Sunday charges being incurred on car parking in Westerham.</p>	<p>Westerham</p>
<p>The council have already increased car parking charges in Westerham town and now want to charge for parking on Sundays. This is completely the wrong thing to do during this current economic climate where prices are already so high. It just looks greedy in my opinion</p>	<p>Westerham</p>
<p>I work in town as a minimum wage retail worker who pays £5.60 a day what is £140 a month to park in the multistorey carpark. I think its wrong to penalise the retail workers with higher monthly outgoings who live outside of sevenoaks and have little to no way to get into town to be able to work. I understand to charge people who do not work in sevenoaks but then I think It would be nicer for there to be an alternative like a town workers permit that would be cheaper for us and more workers will use. While do a residential parking for those who don't work and charge them for the weekends/ higher prices.</p>	<p>Westerham</p>