

## Parking Charges – Response to Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken on the proposals relating to Parking Charges as discussed at Cabinet in November. A number of stakeholders were contacted and feedback was requested on the proposals, along with advertisements being placed in local press and in all affected car parks.

Consultation closed on 12<sup>th</sup> December and the results were as follows:

There were 18 responses to the consultation.

Of the responses received, three were in favour of the proposals (one 'conditionally in favour'). All other responses were objecting to the proposals. One objection related specifically to the price of a specific season ticket holder, who considered that the proposed increased price of a specific season ticket would be a significant increase and above inflation.

Comments received are summarised as follows:

- Selsey Town Council: The proposed changes to charging hours represent a cynical move on the part of the District Council to exploit those residents and visitors contributing to the city's night time economy and will impact negatively on the buoyancy of that economy could be considered short-sighted.
- Chichester Festival Theatre: Extending charging hours would have a totally disproportionate impact on theatre-goers, it is unfair that these extended charges are being applied to Northgate and New Park car parks, unfairly prejudicing visitors to these venues. One of the attractions of our city's theatre is ease of access and parking. Introducing evening charges in the city's car parks may have a damaging impact on the night time economy. Extending the hours of charging would disproportionately affect those on low income and those who live remotely. Small but unwelcome changes to the theatre-going experience can have a disproportionate effect on audience numbers.
- Chichester Ronin Judo Club: When much of the [New Park Road] car park was sold off for housing, and even more of the compound was used for a construction compound, our numbers dropped drastically. Even a small drop in numbers can affect the energy of a class and this spirals into ongoing falling numbers. We lost money throughout this period and had to draw on club funds. The proposed changes will result in many parents having to pay

for two hours parking each evening. Parents are not able to pay and additional £200 per year, or will find having change available inconvenient and will stop coming to the club. Coaches will have to find up to £300 to park near the club. We are unlikely to be the only club affected.

- Member of public: Other authorities are reducing parking charges to assist local traders in these difficult times. It is already expensive to use the theatre, cinema and go to eat in town. This will add to the cost and will make it more difficult for many. It will be difficult for people from other areas, who will not expect to pay.
- Charity (Talks at Six): The talks take place every Thursday at the New Park Centre and would be devastated if the audience were made to pay for parking. The talks raise money for local charities and have been very successful so please do not squash it in its infancy. Rental of halls is a vital part of the New Park Centre and the after 6 times is crucial to its popularity.
- Member of public: I take my grandchildren to the New Park Centre twice a week for Judo. I don't have a blue badge as I don't quite meet the criteria and would not be able to walk the distance to the Cattle Market car park. My grandchildren will have to give up Judo as I will not be able to pay the additional charges. Parents may look at alternative clubs where parking is free.
- Member of public: The extension of parking charges after 6pm is damaging to the New Park Cinema and Chichester Theatre. It also negates regular use of the restaurants surrounding or close to the car parks in question. It will seriously inhibit further our use of the city sending us to places where we can park with ease and at no extra charge.
- Member of public: A mean spirited idea to target theatre and cinema goers – culture lovers – and not just increasing the daily rates in all the car parks.
- Member of public: This is a deliberate attack on culture and those in retirement. Targeting a specific group. Part of the enjoyment of a Chichester theatre visit is the knowledge I can step out of a car and walk a short distance to the performance without having to check, before I leave home that I have the correct change to park. The fact that parking is free is a very significant factor in determining whether I attend a particular performance. A high percentage of the theatre audience is elderly. Those you are targeting are, to a large extent, retirees. The plan is iniquitous. Increase your overall car parking charges throughout Chichester during the day. A mean, uncultured

proposal, wholly unworthy of a council which, hitherto, I had supposed was promoting cultural excellence.

- Member of public: Having to pay for parking seems very tough, for Theatre goers this will be a real disadvantage and New Park Centre many will find it hard to pay. Raise the charges a little during the day – when there is alternative public transport – and allow us all to park for free after 6pm when public transport becomes impossible, would be the fairest.
- Member of public: These car parks have been used for many years without causing any undue wear and tear. The extra traffic chaos likely to be caused by the imposition of parking charges seems not to have been taken into account. Delays will be experienced as customers try to obtain parking tickets.
- Chichester Cinema at New Park: Against any extension to the Car Park's chargeable hours. We are in competition with a huge national company which is serviced by a free car park. Our busiest screening slot is the evening slot, directly affecting around two thirds of our patrons, adding another £3.90 to their visit if they are just seeing a film or £7.10 if they are also having a meal. Do you support the big national companies or the local community organisations? Large majority of the audience is made up of elderly retirees and pensioners. Add a few pence across all the council car park charges would be a better proposition and cause less stress and fewer complaints than penalising visitors at the two car parks closest to the main evening entertainment centres.
- Member of the Public: Parking in Chichester is a real problem. Because the charges are so high, streets in Summerdale are lined with cars of workers in the town who choose to park in the roads to avoid paying the charges. New developments such as Graylingwell and the Barracks have too few spaces allowed per household and it is virtually impossible to call on any one living there, simply because one cannot park. This will not encourage visitors to come and is robbing visitors to the theatre of the ease of access they have enjoyed.
- Chichester BID: Conditionally in favour, conditions as follows: 1. That we are made aware of the research behind the proposal which related to specific financial benefits to CDC. 2. That measures are put in place to accurately judge the behavioural effects throughout the trial period. That a proper and open assessment of the results and rationale for extending the trial, are made public before either a continuation or expansion of the proposal throughout the city.

- Sussex Police: No objections to the proposals as outline.
- Chichester City Council: The majority vote was to object to the proposal, especially the extension of parking charges in the two car parks of New Park Road and Northgate. Councillors are concerned about impact upon the night time economy and question why just these car parks have been selected as opposed to all. It was felt that two quite different clientele were being targeted between, principally Festival Theatre audiences and users of New Park Road. The City Council are pleased to note that if this proposal is introduced then it will be reviewed after 12 months but they ask please for some initial tolerance in enforcement and that maximum publicity and signage is given to inform car park users of changes.
- City Councillor for Chichester South: I would like to support these increases as car parking charges should be set to reflect the environmental damage that driving cars inflict on the population. Car parking charges should be used to discourage people driving into the city and the monies made should be ploughed back into making public transport more attractive. If bus prices are so much higher than car parking, we won't be able to encourage people to leave their cars at home.