

g. Potential Charging for Car Parking

Potential Implementation from 2018

Potential annual additional income of £150,000

1. Present Situation

The Council owns and is responsible for the management of all of the car parks as set out below. The Council is rightly proud that it is one of only a handful of Councils in the country that still offers free town centre shoppers parking for up to three hours in order to encourage people to shop locally and ensure that the Borough's town centres stay vibrant.

2. Car Park Locations, Charges and Facilities

Oadby:

Location	Total spaces		No. of P&D machines	
East Street	185	Short stay up to 3 hrs	0	Car park contains toilet block and car park enforcement officer's office & toilet. Also used for Oadby Town centre barrow.
Ellis Park	18	Short stay up to 3 hours	0	
Sandhurst Street	192	Up to 3 hours free. Over 3 hours is £3 flat rate	2	
	395			

Wigston:

Aylestone Lane	60	Up to 3 hours free. Over 3 hours is £3 flat rate	2	13 Resident parking permits issued free of charge in this location to residents on Aylestone Lane who have no off-street parking.
Frederick Street	55	Short stay up to 3 hours	0	
Junction Road	142	Short stay up to 3 hours	0	Toilet block in car park containing separate ladies/gents/disabled toilets and service room used for Wigston Town Centre barrow
Paddock	87	Up to 3 hours	1	Vehicles accessing pub and backs of

Street		free. Over 3 hours is £3 flat rate		shops have to cross this car park to get to their service areas.
Spring Lane	25	Short stay up to 3 hours	0	
	369			

South Wigston:

Countesthorpe Road	74	Up to 12 hours free	0	No enforcement action historically taken on this car park.
	74			

3. Car Park Income

2016/17 income from over 3 hr stays = £13,801

2015/16 income from over 3 hr stays = £16,550

2014/15 income from over 3 hr stays = £17,379

4. Usage Statistics

Car parking usage surveys from March 2016 can be used to try and identify some fundamental trends.

The conclusions that can be drawn from these surveys are that the trend seems to be that there is spare capacity in both of the main town centres at all times and that they generally tend to be busier in the morning and over lunch time. More spaces then become available as the afternoon progresses. Although the survey is limited it shows that occupancy is generally above 70%.

5. Options

1. Remove all parking machines and make all car parks free all day without any enforcement

Advantages	Disadvantages
Save approx £32k per annum as no enforcement fees, no machines to maintain (saving includes for loss of car park fees)	No enforcement would produce free for all – bad behaviour and possibly result in negative publicity and the permanent blocking of spaces so there would be no turnover

2. Introduce pay and display in all car parks whereby the first 3 hours is free and pay for over 3 hours

Advantages	Disadvantages
	No evidence that there is a demand for over 3 hour parking therefore this option would spread existing over 3 hr parkers across all car parks.
	Capital cost of purchase of 8 x P& D machines at approx £3,500 each.
	Would need to check all machines daily therefore less enforcement time leading to reduced Penalty Notice income

3. Retain current free system but for up to 2 hours rather than 3 hours and charge for over 2 hours long stay at the flat rate of £3 as in current long stay locations.

Advantages	Disadvantages
There would be an increased number of people needing to pay for long stay but cannot predict how much.	Cost of updating Parking Order and altering signage (approx £1.5k)
Increase turnover of spaces	Maybe unpopular

The perception is that 3 hours free parking keeps town centres vibrant and economically viable. Anecdotally it is accepted that a proportion of parking spaces are taken up by town centre workers who park for 3 hours and then at lunch time move their car to another car park so that they comply with the Parking Order. Reducing free parking to 2 hours would potentially reduce the likelihood of this happening.

4. Introduce parking charges for any length of stay at all car parks

Advantages	Disadvantages
Increased income – See potential income calculation below	Capital cost of purchase of 8 x P& D machines at approx £3,500 each.
Increase turnover of spaces	Increase in revenue costs for maintaining more machines/data card charges/mobile lines for machine data and collection charges – would increase costs by approx £10k)
	Cost of updating Parking Order (approx £1k)and altering signage (approx £5k)

	Need to check all machines daily therefore officers get less enforcement time leading to reduced Penalty Notice income
	Unpopular with traders and shoppers

6. Potential Income Calculation

Local Comparisons:

- Harborough charge(for Market Harborough town centre):
 Long Stay car parks up to 4 hrs £1.20
 Over 4 hrs £2.20
 Short stay car parks up to 2 hrs 0.70
 Up to 3 hrs £1.20
 Up to 4 hrs £1.70
 Over 4 hrs £3.20
- Blaby charge (for Blaby town centre)
 Up to 3 hrs 0.20p
 Up to 4 hrs £1.50
 Season ticket £395
 Residents parking permit £50

Due to the fact that there are no charges at the moment for short stay it is difficult to accurately predict what effect the introduction of car parking changes would have on usage and therefore what income it would generate.

As an example, the Council could introduce a 50p charge in all car parks for a two or three hour stay and work on the reasonable basis that 75% of spaces would be used twice in one day.

This would result in 1146 paying visits per day in total equating to an income of £573 per day. Over a 6 day week, for 50 weeks a year, this would then potentially generate £171,900 of additional income.

On that basis, and trying to take other variables into account, it would not be unreasonable to predict additional income of potentially £150,000 per year