Appendix 2: Parking strategy consultation

Shropshire Council's parking strategy

<u>**Consultation document 1**</u>
Proposals regarding: linear parking; pricing bands; unrestricted parking; evening parking; loading bays; 'pop and shop' parking, and Raven Meadows opening hours

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For more detailed information about the proposals outlined in this document, please see the Shropshire Council Cabinet report for 12 July 2017. ADD LINK

Introduction

Shropshire Council provides car parks and on-street parking across the county. The way that we manage and run our car parks and on-street parking is determined by our parking strategy.

The **current strategy [link]** – and our current charging arrangements - was introduced in 2012. But a lot has changed in the past five years, and now a new strategy is needed.

In simple terms we want to offer an improved parking service that is hassle-free, and that makes use of the latest technology. We want a service that offers value for money and that is consistent across the county. And we want to make it easy for our customers to understand how much it costs to park – in our car parks and on-street - and the easiest way to pay.

We've carried out a detailed evidenced-based review to inform the new draft strategy and we have some ideas about how we can achieve this by making our parking charges simpler, clearer and easier to understand – but before we do anything we want to know what you think.

We've made a number of proposals and we want to know your thoughts.

Note: This document is one in a series of four consultation documents, each looking at different aspects of the parking strategy. You can respond to as many of the documents as you wish.

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Useful links

Current parking strategy
https://new.shropshire.gov.uk/parking/service-information/shropshire-parking-strategy/

Local Transport Plan
https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/public-and-passenger-transport/local-transport-plan/

Shrewsbury Integrated Transport Package
https://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/shrewsbury-integrated-transport-package/
http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/media1/2688/shrewsbury-itp-consultation-report-_final.pdf
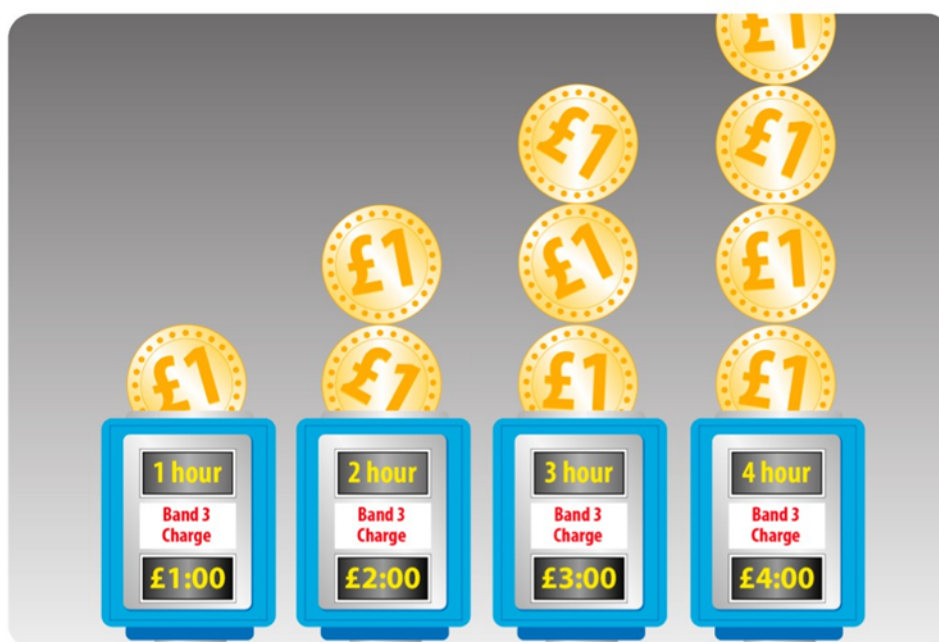
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What we're proposing and why

We're proposing a number of changes to our parking charge structure – ie. the section of the parking strategy that determines what we charge to park and why. Remember that these are proposals only at this stage and we won't do anything until we know what you think.

For each of the following proposals, tell us whether you agree, and let us have any comments.

Proposal 1 - The introduction of a set price per hour (known as 'linear' pricing)

We're proposing to introduce a set price per hour in each of our car parks, though the charge will vary between car parks (see proposal 2) depending on their location.

Why? At the moment charges per length of stay vary from car park to car park and from town to town. It can be difficult to understand how much you need to pay, and customers often find that they don't have the right coins - which can lead to paying too much as the machines don't give change.

A simple, consistent, easy to understand hourly charge will make it easier for customers to choose how long to park for. The charge will vary depending on where you park, with each car park or on-street parking area being placed into a 'band'. **See proposal 2**.

The proposed hourly charge for each band is.

Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7
£2.50	£2.00	£1.00	£0.70	£0.50	£0.30	Free

Additional information/example: Parking at Frankwell car park in Shrewsbury currently costs: 1 hour (£1.20); 3 hours (£2.70); 10 hours (4.00).

With a linear (hourly) charge of 70p an hour, charge would be: 1 hour (70p); 2 hours (£1.40); 3 hours (£2.10) and so on – which we think is much simpler and easier to understand.

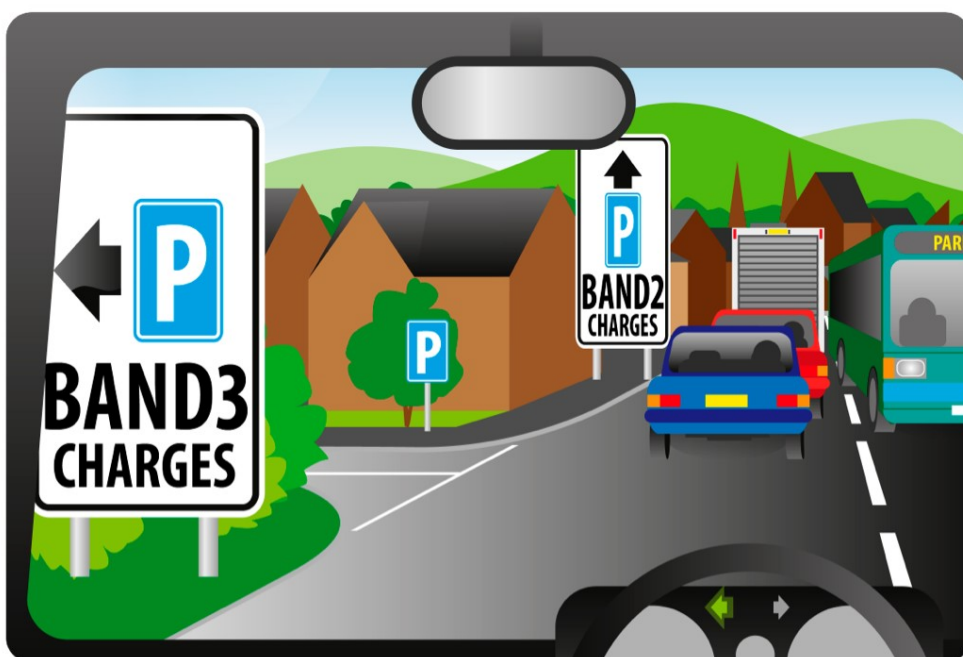**Do you agree with our proposal?**

Yes

No

If 'No', do you have an alternative suggestion?

Do you have any other comments regarding this proposal?

Proposal 2 - A standard countywide car parking banding / ranking system

We're proposing to introduce seven new pricing bands. Each car park and on-street pay and display area will be placed into one of these bands, depending on its location, capacity and the likelihood of finding a parking space.

Why? This will help to standardise and simplify our parking charges structure to ensure that there is consistency across the county, and to make it easier for people to understand.

The proposed hourly charge for each band is.

Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7
£2.50	£2.00	£1.00	£0.70	£0.50	£0.30	Free

Click here to see a table showing which car park / pay and display area falls within which band. The table is towards the end of this page/document).

Do you agree with our proposal?
Yes
No

If 'No', do you have an alternative suggestion?

Do you have any other comments regarding this proposal?

Proposal 3 – Parking tickets for unrestricted periods

We're proposing to end the current system of long-stay and short-stay parking by introducing parking tickets that allow you to park without a maximum stay limit in our car parks and on-street pay and display areas.

Why? This will be made possible by the introduction of banding **(see proposal 2),** which will allow us to better manage our car parks and remove the current time limits. This will enable you to park in your preferred location for as long as you want/need to, as long as you're willing to pay the appropriate charge.

Do you agree with our proposal?

Yes

No

If 'No', do you have an alternative suggestion?

Do you have any other comments regarding this proposal?

Proposal 4 – introduce linear (set price per hour) charges between 9am and 8pm

Evening parking across the county is currently free after 6pm and take-up by both residents, businesses and visitors can be high, which is great for our evening economy, but can cause congestion in our car parks and on-street parking areas, plus additional operational and maintenance costs. We're planning to introduce linear parking charges between 9am and 8pm.

Why? This would address the above issues, keep things simple and easy to understand, would make it easier for us to manage and enforce parking. It will also allow residents to continue to park overnight free of charge. To allow for overnight parking we would start charging at 9am, rather than 8am as we do now.

This option would also help us to meet the objectives of the Shrewsbury Integrated Transport Package. [add link]

Any additional income raised through evening charges would be put towards the costs of managing and maintaining our car parks.

Do you agree with our proposal?

Yes

No

If 'No', do you have an alternative suggestion?

Do you have any other comments regarding this proposal?

Proposal 5 – The extension of on-street loading and taxi bay provision in the evenings and early mornings

Loading bays are provided in our market towns and the times they can be used for loading and unloading varies from bay to bay and town to town. Outside of these times the bays can generally be used for unrestricted parking. We're now proposing that the loading bay restriction times should be extended in line with the evening parking charge proposals.

We're also proposing that all existing loading bays within the Shrewsbury river loop are used as taxi bays between 8pm and 7.30am. If this is successful we'd consider introducing similar measures in other market towns.

Why? If on-street evening parking charges are introduced we'll need to make sure that the loading bays can used for loading and unloading. There's also a shortage of taxi bays within the Shrewsbury river loop, and this would support the night-time economy, help ensure that there's appropriate taxi provision throughout the night, and help ensure the safety of people visiting the town at night.

Do you agree with our proposal?

Yes

No

If 'No', do you have an alternative suggestion?

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Do you have any other comments regarding this proposal?

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Proposal 6 – Removal of the 15-minute 'pop and shop' period

We're planning to end the 'pop and shop' period that allows you to park in all of our pay and display parking areas for 15 minutes without having to pay. If you include the 10 minute 'observation period' before a ticket can be issued, people can currently park for free for up to 25 minutes. We're proposing to end this, but you will still have a 10 minute period after parking before a ticket can be issued.

Why? Shropshire Council and local businesses want to encourage people to come into our towns for longer, rather than rushing to get their shopping done in 15 minutes. However, under the plans people who do need to stop briefly will still have 10 minutes.

Do you agree with our proposal?

Yes

No

If 'No', do you have an alternative suggestion?

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Do you have any other comments regarding this proposal?

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Proposal 7 – The extension of opening hours in Raven Meadows multi storey car park in Shrewsbury

We're proposing to open the car park 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Why? With the ongoing development of the 'night-time economy' there is now a demand for a safe and secure car park in Shrewsbury that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

New parking machines and barriers and number plate recognition have recently been installed in Raven Meadows to improve the service to customers. Now a refurbishment programme is proposed that will improve safety and security at the car park, which will enable the extension of opening hours.

Opening 24/7 would also provide additional, much-needed, parking for users of the nearby railway station, and for the neighbouring Premier Inn hotel.

Do you agree with our proposal?

Yes

No

If 'No', do you have an alternative suggestion?

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Do you have any other comments regarding this proposal?

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What isn't changing

All current concessions for blue badge holders, residents and permit holders will remain unchanged.

Proposed bands

The proposed banding level for each identified on and off street parking area:

Car Park	Town	Band
Shrewsbury on-street	Shrewsbury	Band 1 £2.50/hour
Quarry Swimming & Fitness Centre	Shrewsbury	Band 2 £2/hour
Ludlow on-street (Red)	Ludlow	
Bridge Street	Shrewsbury	
St Austin's	Shrewsbury	
Raven Meadows	Shrewsbury	
St Julian's Friars	Shrewsbury	
Castle Street	Ludlow	Band 3 £1/hour
Listley Street North & South	Bridgnorth	
Sainsbury's	Bridgnorth	
Festival Square	Oswestry	
Ellesmere on-street	Ellesmere	
Riverside	Bridgnorth	Band 4 70p/hour
Beatrice Street	Oswestry	
Frankwell Main, Riverside & Quay	Shrewsbury	
Smithfield	Bridgnorth	
Ludlow on-street (Blue)	Ludlow	
Back Lane	Much Wenlock	
Galdeford Zone A	Ludlow	Band 5 50p/hour
Frogmore Road	Market Drayton	
Easthope Road	Church Stretton	
Queen Street	Market Drayton	

Car Park	Town	Band
Abbey Foregate	Shrewsbury	
St Mary's Lane	Much Wenlock	
Falcons Court	Much Wenlock	
Pepper Street	Whitchurch	
Castle Hill	Whitchurch	
Innage Lane	Bridgnorth	
Severn Street	Bridgnorth	
Galdeford Zone B	Ludlow	
Oswald Road	Oswestry	
Towers Lawn 1 & 2	Market Drayton	
Smithfield	Ludlow	
Oak Street	Oswestry	
Newtown	Whitchurch	
St John's Street	Whitchurch	Band 6
Brownlow Street	Whitchurch	30p/hour
New Road	Much Wenlock	
Talbot, Cross, Spar bridge	Ellesmere	
High Street	Wem	
Mill Street	Wem	
Leek Street	Wem	
Prees Heath HGV/coach/cars	Prees Heath	
Crossways	Church Stretton	
Newport Road	Market Drayton	
Gobowen Station	Gobowen	
Crown Hotel, High Street	Albrighton	
Church Street	Bishop's Castle	Band 7

Car Park	Town	Band
Harley Jenkins	Bishop's Castle	Free
Dark Lane	Broseley	
Clun	Clun	
Lloyd Street	Oswestry	
High Street	Highley	
Auction Yard	Bishop's Castle	
Bridgnorth Road	Broseley	
Childe Road East & West	Cleobury Mortimer	
Corvedale Road	Craven Arms	
Newington Way	Craven Arms	
Gatacre	Oswestry	
Sherrymill Hill	Whitchurch	
Church Street	Prees	

It's recommended that all car parks within the Shrewsbury river loop should be a minimum of band 2 to help achieve the objectives of the **Shrewsbury Integrated Transport Package**. [LINK].

What happens next?

All responses to the consultation will be carefully considered before the final proposals are presented to Shropshire Council's Cabinet for approval.

Subject to approval of any proposals, a further formal traffic regulation order consultation and approval will be required before they are implemented.

Remember: For more detailed information about the proposals outlined in this document, please see the Shropshire Council Cabinet report for 12 July 2017. ADD LINK

Note: By law, any surplus money Shropshire Council receives from car parking over and above the cost of providing and administering it must be used for the benefit of road users. Any surplus generated from these new proposals would be put towards a number of new parking developments, including the replacement of the existing payment machines to enable payment by card, contactless payments, and payment by mobile phone.

Any further surplus money would be used to fund public transport services, road improvements projects and environmental improvements.

Parking strategy consultation survey – user/demographic questions

About you

This information will help us understand the kinds of people who have completed this survey. We will also use it to understand if different groups of people have different views so we can plan actions that respond to this in the most appropriate way to reduce any inequalities. The information you give us will be collated and used to produce statistics that will not identify you or anyone in your household. You do not have to complete the questions in this section if you don't want to but it will help us if you do.

Are you completing this survey as… [please tick ALL that apply]

- A local resident
- A customer of the car parks /on street parking described in this consultation
- A customer of the off-street parking described in this consultation
- A customer of parking permits described in this consultation
- A representative of a local business or commercial organisation
- A member of a local interest or community group
- A member of a local faith group or church
- A representative of a local Town or Parish Council
- A representative of a local rural parish council
- A Shropshire Councillor
- A tourist
- Other (please state _____)
- None of these

Are you?

Male   Female   Prefer not to say

Do you identify as the gender you were assigned at birth?

Yes   No   Prefer not to say

What age group are you?

19 or under   20-29   30-44   45-64   65-74   75+   Prefer not to say

How would you describe your ethnic background?

- White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- White: Irish
- White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White: Polish
- White: Other
- Mixed Race: White and Black Caribbean

- Mixed Race: White and Black African
- Mixed Race: White and Asian
- Mixed Race: Other
- Asian or Asian British: Indian
- Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British: Chinese
- Asian or Asian British: Other
- Black or Black British: African
- Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Black or Black British: Other
- Other ethnic group: Arab
- Other ethnic group: Other
- Prefer not to say

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

Yes   No   Prefer not to say

    If yes, are you the owner of a blue badge?

    Yes   No   Prefer not to say

Do you belong to any particular religion or hold particular beliefs?

Christian   Muslim   Sikh   Hindu   Jewish   Other Religion   No Religion   Prefer not to say

If other please state_____-

Are you a carer?

Yes   No   Prefer not to say

    If yes, do you care for a…….?

    Parent   Child   Child with a disability

    Partner / spouse   Friend / Neighbour   Other family member

    Other (please state)_____

Are you pregnant or within 26 weeks of the birth of a child?

Yes   No   Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your working status?

- Employed (employee/self-employed)
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Student
- Looking after home or family

- Long term sick or disabled
- Not working / other
- Prefer not to say

Please tell us your full postcode?

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