

CAR PARKING FEES AND CHARGES 2023 AND PARKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS 2022 IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL BUSINESSES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Every year, prior to next year's parking clocks being advertised for sale, the Environment and Coastal Services Portfolio Holder reviews the cost of parking clocks and pay and display charges to consider whether any adjustments should be made. At the same time, the parking arrangements in support of local businesses for Christmas this year (2022) are also published.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Car Park charges in the New Forest District towns and villages have not increased since January 2018. In the period since the last increase, operating costs have increased significantly. However, in response to the current cost of living crisis all our charges will remain the same for 2023. This decision supports local businesses, communities and our residents at this difficult time by continuing to provide exceptional value parking in all our car parks throughout the district.
- 2.2 The Council has invested in electric vehicle charging points (EVCP's) and now has 29 fast chargers (22Kwh) operational in 10 of our town and village car parks. Phase 2 is underway and we anticipate having a mixture of fast and rapid chargers in a further 5 car parks including providing EVCP's in 3 of our coastal car parks at Milford and Barton on sea. These should be available by summer 2023. In addition, we are adding to the fast chargers at Ringwood Furlong by installing additional rapid chargers to provide a charging 'hub' of fast and rapid chargers which will support the town and local economy
- 2.3 As a policy, NFDC have not used car parking as an income generator but as a benefit to the economy and as a way of supporting High Streets. There has been considerable investment in car parking infrastructure and technology as well as maintenance and landscaping all of which has been funded by surpluses generated. The Council remains committed to ensure that it continues to support local businesses and provide residents and visitors with the benefits of low-cost parking and accordingly charges remain extremely competitive. Therefore, following a comprehensive review, there are no changes to tariff and clock charges.

3. PARKING CLOCK CHARGES

3.1 Short Stay Shoppers Clocks

Current annual cost is £30. This cost will remain the same for 2023.

3.2 Annual Long Stay clocks

Current annual cost is £140. This cost will remain the same for 2023.

3.3 Quarterly Long stay clocks:

Current cost is £40. This cost will remain the same for 2023.

4. CAR PARK CHARGES

4.1 Currently, NFDC has a mixture of tariffs with the major split being between the town and village car park tariff and the amenity (coastal) car park tariff.

4.2 Town and Village Centre Car Parks

These tariffs will continue to be held frozen at 2018 prices to support town and village centre businesses and encourage residents to shop locally.

4.3 Amenity Car Parks

All amenity car park charges will remain frozen at 2021 prices.

5. FREE PARKING DAYS IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL BUSINESSES

5.1 In addition to the above charges the council would also like to confirm its intention to have 4 days this year (2022) when charges do not apply in town and village centre car parks to assist businesses. These days are:

- Small Business Saturday (this year on the 3rd December 2022)
- The last weekend before Christmas (17th/18th December 2022)
- An additional day where Town and Parish Councils may request free parking in support of their Christmas events

6. IMPROVING AND ENHANCING THE CAR PARKS.

6.1 Improvement and enhancing our car parks remains a priority. There is a rolling programme of grounds and car park maintenance with 2 dedicated staff in our car parks 5 days a week. In addition, we are always looking at how we can best improve the experience for all our car park users, as well as ensuring that they are regularly inspected, safe and fit for purpose.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME AND DISORDER AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are now 29 Fast (22 Kwh) (EVCP's) operating in 10 of our car parks. As of the date of this report, there have been 130,000 Kwh of charging of electric vehicles using green energy which has resulted in a reduction of over 10,000 Kgs of CO2 emissions in the last 12 months. By summer 2023 we anticipate having a total of 50 fast and rapid chargers in 15 car parks throughout the district.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The cost of living crisis is squeezing all incomes and whilst our costs of operating, enforcing and maintaining our car parks increase year on year, keeping our prices the same for 2023 will it is hoped provide support to all our communities in these difficult times.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 In these difficult times these proposals continue to support our local economy and businesses. This is done by ensuring ongoing investment in our real estate and using technology to improve the user experience whilst providing access to low-cost parking which continues to be a key priority.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the parking charges for 2023 with regards NFDC parking clocks as set out in section 3 be agreed; namely
- Short stay annual clocks to remain at £30.00
 - Long stay annual clocks to remain at £140.00
 - Long stay quarterly clocks to remain at £40.00
- 10.2 That the 2023 town and village car park tariffs stay held at the current 2018 price.
- 10.3 That the 2023 amenity car park tariffs stay held at the current 2021 price.
- 10.4 That the Council allocate 4 days of free parking in town centre car parks to support local businesses during December 2022.

11. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

- 11.1 I agree to the recommendation above.

Signed: Cllr Steve Davies

Dated: 7 October 2022

For Further Information please contact:

David Hurd
Environmental Enforcement and
Amenities Manager
Email: david.hurd@nfdc.gov.uk

Date on which notice given of this Decision – 11 October 2022

Last date for call in – 18 October 2022.