

Portfolio holder decision – Portfolio holder for Environment and Sustainability – 15 April 2025

Free parking day in NFDC car parks for an event organised or supported by Town and Parish Councils celebrating the 80 years since VE Day (Victory in Europe).

Purpose	For Decision
Classification	Public
Executive Summary	The report proposes a free parking day in NFDC town and village centre car parks marking the 80 years since VE day (8 May 1945) (Victory in Europe), when the Second World War came to an end in Europe, where it is requested by a Town or Parish Council in support of an event to mark the occasion.
Recommendation(s)	That the Council provide a days free parking in its town and village centre car parks to mark VE Day (8 May 2025), where it is requested by a Town or Parish Council in support of an event to mark the occasion.
Reasons for recommendation(s)	Recognising VE day supports the community in celebrating the 80 th anniversary of this historic day.
Ward(s)	All
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Geoffrey Blunden – Environment and Sustainability
Strategic Director(s)	James Carpenter - Strategic Director of Place, Operations and Sustainability
Officer Contact	David Hurd Environmental Enforcement and Amenities Manager 02380 285000 David.hurd@nfdc.gov.uk

Background

1. To support our communities in their coming together in mark the 80th anniversary of VE day, a days free parking will be offered to Town and Parish Councils organising or supporting events to mark the occasion in our town and village car parks.
2. Details of our Town and Village Car Parks that would be eligible are set out online <https://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/1234/Town-and-village-parking>

Consultation undertaken

3. The potential for marking the occasion was raised by Ward councillors, and officers and the Portfolio Holder, Environment and Sustainability have been consulted.
4. The decision and offer would need to be conveyed to the Town and Parish Councils once made to allow for the necessary management arrangements to be made.

Financial and resource implications

5. Should all Towns and Parishes take up the offer across our town and village centre car parks the total financial implication would be circa £5-6k by way of loss of ticketed parking income (based on May 2024 figures). The income generated from parking clock sales is unaffected.
6. There are some resource implications with the parking enforcement staff needing to "bag" the ticket machines so they are not inadvertently used. There will also be a reduction in the need for parking enforcement on the day, but this staff resource can be redirected to other activity and priorities for the day.
7. There would be an expected reduction in PCN activity both in terms of income and subsequent processing, which are likely cost neutral.

Legal implications

8. No legal implications are considered to arise.

Risk assessment

9. No risks are considered to arise.

Environmental / Climate and nature implications

10. Free car parking may encourage private vehicle use that may not otherwise take place, or in preference to more sustainable modes. Given the limited scale of this however, there are no material climate impacts considered to arise.

Equalities implications

11. No equalities implications are considered to arise.

Crime and disorder implications

12. No crime and disorder implications are considered to arise.

Data protection/ Information governance/ ICT implications

13. No data protection, information governance, ICT implications are considered to arise.

Portfolio holder endorsement

I have agreed to the recommendations of this report.

Signed: Cllr Geoff Blunden

Dated: 15 April 2025

Date on which notice given of this Decision – 15 April 2025

Last date for call in – 24 April 2025