

<b>Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p data-bbox="92 241 531 271"><b>From Frome Chamber of Commerce</b></p> <p data-bbox="92 315 791 383">Cllr Taylor announced during the Cabinet Meeting and the email refers to :-</p> <ul data-bbox="236 389 810 490" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="236 389 810 490">• Implementation of a scheme to allow for virtual permits to be purchased offering more flexibility and affordable options to car park users.</li></ul> <p data-bbox="92 497 847 741">I think this was in response to the Chamber’s representations about part time workers and that the proposals for season tickets would breach MDC’s obligation under the Equality Act (attached). I cannot see anything about this in the attachments – have I missed something? If not please explain how that is to be done and confirm that the increases in season tickets prices will not be implemented until it is available.</p>	<p data-bbox="874 241 1513 490">Schedule 2 (a) attached with the original consultation email does specify how the Council will implement additional levels of season ticket payment in order to support part time workers / low income households. This was detailed following your feedback. I have attached this schedule again for your information.</p>

**From Street Parish Council**

Below I have picked out from the draft order sent to us just some of the contraventions made by the travellers when they park up in Cranhill Road Car Park.

I would like an answer as to why these anomalies are allowed to exist and the measures Mendip intend to put in place to ensure any violations of this order are dealt with whether by travellers or locals.

**THE MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2018**

**Payment for Use and Tickets**

6.1 The Driver of the Vehicle shall either (a) immediately upon first parking, unless otherwise instructed by a person duly authorised by the Council, in any Parking Place pay the appropriate charge in accordance with the scale of charges specified in Schedule 1 unless the driver is the holder of a valid Permit or the vehicle is an Invalid Carriage

6.5.1 Any Permit or parking ticket referred to in this Article 6 shall be displayed on the Vehicle in respect of which it was issued as follows:- (a) in the case of a motorcycle combination, in a conspicuous position on the Vehicle in front of the driving seat; and (b) in the case of all other Vehicles:- (i) where the Vehicle is fitted with a transparent windscreen, facing forward on the dashboard or fascia, unless authorised differently by the Council, and (ii) where the Vehicle is not fitted with a transparent windscreen, on the Vehicle in a conspicuous position so that in each case, full details are at all times visible and can clearly be read from outside the Vehicle.

6.6 Where a charge is specified for a period, the whole of that charge shall be due and payable whether the Parking Place is used for all or part of that period.

6.7 The Driver of a Vehicle shall remove the Vehicle from the Parking Place before or upon the expiry of the period paid for.

6.8 The Driver of a Vehicle shall pay the appropriate fee for each Parking Space used or part thereof by the Vehicle.

**Other Contraventions**

8 Whilst using a Parking Place as permitted by this Order a trailer or caravan shall, unless otherwise authorised by the Council, remain connected to the towing Vehicle.

10 No person shall without the prior written consent of the Council use a Vehicle while it is in a Parking Place in connection with the sale of or offering for sale any article to any person or persons in or near the Parking Place or in connection with the selling or offering for hire of any skill or service or for any other business or commercial purposes.

10 No person shall without the prior written consent of the Council use a Vehicle while it is in a Parking Place in connection with the sale of or offering for sale any article to any person or persons in or near the Parking Place or in connection with the

In response to your comments, travellers who choose to occupy any car park illegally will be managed in accordance with Council processes and procedures. Whilst your comments made are noted, in the instance of occupation by the travelling community, the Council would not look to enforce one element of the Parking Order, as you have highlighted, but choose to resolve the wider issue of their illegal encampment.

selling or offering for hire of any skill or service or for any other business or commercial purposes.

10 No person shall without the prior written consent of the Council use a Vehicle while it is in a Parking Place in connection with the sale of or offering for sale any article to any person or persons in or near the Parking Place or in connection with the selling or offering for hire of any skill or service or for any other business or commercial purposes.

15 No person shall, except with the permission of the Council drive any Vehicle in a Parking Place other than for the purpose of leaving that Vehicle in that Parking Place in accordance with the provisions of this Order or for the purpose of departing from that Parking Place

16.1 No person shall without the prior written authority of the Council use any part of a Parking Place or any Vehicle left in that Parking Place for the purposes of:- (a) sleeping, camping or residential purposes; (b) eating or cooking purposes; or (c) servicing, washing, painting, constructing, maintaining or repairing or otherwise tending any Vehicle or part thereof other than is reasonably necessary to enable that Vehicle to depart from the Parking Place.

21 No person shall in a Parking Place (a) use any threatening, abusive or insulting language, gesture or conduct with intent to put any person in fear or so as to occasion a breach of the peace or whereby a breach of the peace is likely to be occasioned, or (b) wantonly shout or otherwise make any loud noise to the disturbance or annoyance of users of the Parking Place or occupiers of premises in the neighbourhood, or (c) deposit any waste or litter other than in the appropriate bins where provided, or (d) Leave or cause to be left a shopping trolley in any Parking Place or any part thereof except in a place designated for that purpose by the Council.

22 A person using a Parking Place shall not cause or suffer any animal belonging to him or in his charge to enter or remain in the Parking Place unless such animal continues to be under proper control and effectively restrained from causing annoyance to any person and from worrying or disturbing any other person or animal, or continues to be under proper control and effectively confined within a Vehicle (such Vehicle being sufficiently ventilated as to cause no harm or distress to the animal)

### **PART III PENALTY CHARGES**

#### **Notice and Application of Penalty Charges**

24.1 Where a contravention of Articles 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4(a), 4.4(b), 4.4(c), 4.4(e), 4.4(f), 5(a), 6.5.2, and 10 of the Order occurs a penalty charge at the higher level specified in column 1 of Schedule 3 shall become due and payable in respect of an offence

24.2 Where a contravention of Articles 4.4(d), 4.4(g), 5(b), 6.1(a), 6.1(b), 6.5.1, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9, 7, 9, and 16.1 of the Order occurs a penalty charge at the lower level specified in

<p>column 2 of Schedule 3 shall become due and payable in respect of an offence</p> <p>24.3 Where a penalty charge is due, a Penalty Charge Notice (“PCN”) shall either;- (a) be fixed to the Vehicle by a Civil Enforcement Officer, or (b) given to the person appearing to the Civil Enforcement Officer to be in charge of the Vehicle, or (c) served by post on the person appearing to the Council to be the Owner of the Vehicle where the Civil Enforcement Officer attempted to serve the PCN but was prevented from doing so, or had begun to prepare a PCN but the Vehicle had been driven away, or where a contravention is recorded on an Approved Device</p> <p>24.4 Where, after the issue of a PCN in accordance with Article 24.3, a Vehicle remains in a position so as to attract a PCN, a further PCN may be issued on each calendar day that the Vehicle remains in the said position.</p>	
<p><b>From Wells City Council</b></p> <p>i. Some increase in charges is acceptable.</p> <p>ii. Please could an indication be given of what proportion the increase is? (Suggest the average percentage increase would be a helpful indicative figure)</p> <p>iii. It would be helpful if the changes or amendments were highlighted or identified in the document in some way; this would make the consultation a much more accessible process.</p>	<p>The information requested in point ii. can be found in the document entitled “Schedule 1 – Charges”, which was attached with my original consultation email. I have attached this again for your convenience. This demonstrates all amended charges against locations. Please note that, as stated in my original email on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, the 21 day statutory consultation period ended on 13<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>With regard to point iii., as most charges are amended in some way, it is not possible to easily highlight the amendments without compromising the consultation documents.</p>
<p><b>From Glastonbury Chamber of Commerce</b></p>	<p>The Council has explored all options, and our Members have agreed the proposed changes. As</p>

<p>Glastonbury is the only one of the 5 “towns” where there is no 30 minute parking option in any of the car parks. The Mendip Car Parks in Glastonbury are in two groups: those whose access is primarily from Wells Road/ Chilkwell Street and those whose access is primarily from the Glastonbury Bypass. An introduction of say 60p for up to 30 minutes on a car park from each of those groups would benefit motorists who just want to visit the town centre for a short period. I would suggest this would cost Mendip very little, but it could also be good PR, as it could be said that for some people parking costs are coming down.</p> <p>When we look at parking charges in our nearest non-Mendip towns. In Somerton, parking is free for up to 12 hours depending on the car park. Whilst I am not advocating this, I am adding this to reiterate that price hikes must not be excessive.</p> <p>With regard to season tickets, in Sedgemoor a Season ticket holder, has a choice of either having a reserved space in a particular car park, or they are allowed to use their season ticket in any of the council car parks. Maybe this is something Mendip could consider.</p> <p>Mendip makes substantial revenue from car parking and I fully understand that they have a need to balance the books, but it would be nice to get something back for the benefit of the town. So, as well as the items above, I would suggest installing CCTV - so this becomes an added value benefit of parking in the Mendip Car Parks.</p> <p>Finally, in my response to the Draft Parking Strategy in April this year, I highlighted the problems of poor signage relating to some of the car parks. I realise that MDC does not have responsibility for signage, but I presume that you must have raised this with Somerset County Council. There is a lot of anecdotal evidence of people coming to Glastonbury not finding anywhere to park and then leaving - this is costing the town money and it is also costing Mendip money, can you please update me as to where you are with this.</p>	<p>such, offering free parking for any length of time is not currently something that Mendip District Council consider to be able to facilitate.</p> <p>We have looked at season tickets, to open the solution to a greater number of customers by amending the payment frequencies, thus allowing overall greater utilisation of Glastonbury car parks. Your comments regarding CCTV and signage have been noted. CCTV is currently provided in a number of Mendip District Council car parks where it is felt most relevant. Signage, as you rightly point out, is a Somerset County Council function and we continue to work closely with them to review the infrastructure.</p>
<p><b>From Frome Town Council</b></p> <p>In response to the consultation on the draft Parking Order and Plans which includes the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A variation in parking charges</li> <li>• A variation in season ticket/permit prices for 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21,</li> <li>• The introduction of Sunday parking charges in Frome and Shepton Mallet</li> </ul> <p>Firstly, we welcome the changes listed below that have been made by Cabinet following feedback received from the public and partners –</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments regarding our Draft MDC Off Street Parking Places Order 2018.</p> <p>With regard to the petition received regarding the implementation of Sunday charges, the noted petition will be heard by Full Council on 24<sup>th</sup> September at which point a formal decision will be made and should there be a need to make amendments we will do so.</p> <p>Mendip District Council offer a range of residents permits in 3 Frome car parks, and season tickets in all long stay car parks in Frome, with current</p>

- The council will continue to provide free parking for disabled badge holders.
- There will be no change to the free evening parking which is in place across the district.
- Sunday parking charges will be lifted in Frome when the Frome Independent Market is trading and in Shepton Mallet to coincide with the Shepton Sunday Monthly Market (this has currently been agreed by a Portfolio Holder Decision).
- Badcox Car Park in Frome will not have any increase in charge.
- Implementation of a scheme to allow for virtual permits to be purchased offering more flexibility and affordable options to car park users.
- The decision to implement Sunday car parking charges in Frome and Shepton as part of the review were agreed. However, there will be a set fee of £2 per day across car parks in Frome and Shepton between 9am and 6pm on Sundays.
- Coach parking charges have been suspended until April 2019 in Wells and Glastonbury and remain free in Frome and Street.

#### Increased charges

To reiterate our comments in response to the earlier review of the Car Parking Strategy, there are two issues here – the increase in charges and the level of those.

Mendip are justifying the increase based on increased costs of car park provision but offer no information to support the claim of increased costs. Whilst the car parks are scheduled for markings to be refreshed, and CCTV, lighting etc. required maintenance and upgrade, these items should be included in any long-term business plan for the car parks and Frome Town would want to see a commitment to these improvements.

The amount of the increase has been based on comparisons that Mendip has made with other authorities but are unrealistic as these authorities do not have a monopoly on local parking and the locations chosen are not realistic alternatives to Frome Town Centre.

#### Sunday charges

There is a great deal of concern over the imposition of Sunday charging, a petition was set up specifically against Sunday charging and was signed by 6176 people, clearly demonstrating the level of opposition.

Whilst we appreciate the charges being lifted for the Independent Market on a Sunday, other venues such as the Cheese & Grain and the Canoe Club will still be affected by the charges having to pay for the use of outside space for events. One of the main reasons that people visit the town centre on a Sunday is to attend events

availability. As such there appears to be no wider need to increase as there remains vacant opportunity.

With regard to your comments on the Saxonvale proposal, this Parking Order consultation is not affected by these factors. Work regarding the review of the Car Park Strategy for Mendip District Council continues and will look at other influencing changes within the District.

and the extra charges to the venues will jeopardise these events.

Mendip Council should consider working with the venues, allowing them to use the outside space for free enabling events to continue and Mendip Council will get the revenue from those parking in the Cattle Market Car Park whilst attending the events.

Season tickets/permit prices

Again, we reiterate our previous comments

Whilst there is a reasoned justification for the hike in season ticket prices, even staged over four years this level of increase is off-putting. It also seems counter-intuitive to increase the cost of season tickets for North Parade by an even greater percentage than for the central area, when this car park has spare capacity.

A more normal mechanism is to increase certain charges by, say 3% above inflation, until realignment is achieved. The report also states that revenue will increase if those purchasing season tickets cease to do so because they will then pay every day that they park. This is unlikely, in practice people will park on surrounding streets, find ways to avoid coming into town at all, or negotiate for the use of private parking spaces near the town centre.

Following a recent car parking event hosted by the Town Council, there was a strong feeling amongst those who attended that there needed to be more season tickets available.

Since writing our initial response to the review of the Car Parking Strategy, Mendip Council have announced their purchase of the Saxonvale site and there is the possibility of the Selwood Garden Village proposal coming forward. With this in mind we feel that there needs to be an early review of the transport strategy for Frome that should be looked at in conjunction with the parking strategy as the two go hand in hand.

A good example of this is the Taunton Transport Strategy developed by Taunton Deane Borough Council, with the aim of improving connectivity and making Taunton a healthier, more attractive place to live and work.

Whilst we appreciate that the Saxonvale proposal and possible extension to Frome is on a different scale to that of Taunton, the impact on Frome will be significant. Please see the link to this strategy below.

<https://somersexnewsroom.com/2018/07/10/have-your-say-on-the-future-of-transport-in-taunton/>

I have attached a copy of our previous response for reference.