

Division(s): West Central Oxford, Isis

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT – 2 JUNE 2011

PROPOSED REINTRODUCTION OF EVENING AND SUNDAY PAY & DISPLAY CHARGES, OXFORD

**Report by Deputy Director of Environment & Economy
(Highways & Transport)**

Introduction

1. This report considers comments and objections received to a formal advertisement and statutory consultation undertaken to reintroduce Pay & Display charges in the evening and on Sundays in Oxford.

Background

2. Charges have been in place for many years to park on-street in central Oxford during the day (Monday – Saturday). During the late 1990's charging hours were extended to include evenings and Sundays but these was removed in December 2005. As part of setting the budget for 2011/12 to 2014/15, the County Council outlined its intention to reintroduce Sunday and evening on-street parking charges in during 2011.

Formal Consultation

3. It was considered that the most straightforward way to reintroduce evening and Sunday charging was to replicate the previous arrangements, albeit with the actual charges being higher to reflect the increases that had taken place in the cost of Monday - Saturday daytime parking. This means that most central Oxford streets would have Sunday daytime charges the same as other days of the week, with the remainder and all evenings being a flat charge at the same cost as 1-hour daytime parking in that street.
4. Formal consultation on these proposed new charges took place in February and March 2011. The public notice was published in the Oxford Times and prominently displayed in all those streets where the proposed charges would apply. Letters and emails were sent to County Councillors representing the relevant Divisions, statutory consultees and a range of organisations likely to have an interest in the proposals. Background documents were placed on deposit in County Hall and on the Consultation section of the County Council's website. A copy of the Notice of Proposal which sets out the proposal (including the charges proposed in each street) is attached at Annex 1.

Consultation responses

5. A total of 246 responses were received. Of these, 118 were copies of a standard letter objecting to the proposed introduction of Sunday charges in the St Giles area and 125 were separate letters or emails objecting and generally raising many of the same points as the standard letter. A further two responses were objecting to the effect the proposals would have on the cultural life of the City (particularly classical music). One respondent was in favour of the proposals.
6. The individual letters/emails are summarised in Annex 2 along with officer comments. Copies of all the correspondence received are available for inspection in the Members' Resource Centre.
7. The main points raised by the majority of objectors can be summarised as follows:-
 - (a) There has been no consideration of the impact the proposals will have on churches and their congregations
 - (b) The existence of Sunday shopping results in the parking pressures. It is unjust to penalise church-goers for this and the Council should instead recoup its costs from those businesses open on a Sunday
 - (c) The consultation documents suggest that greater use should be made of Park & Ride. This is expensive for families and discriminates against those with limited means.
 - (d) The proposal interferes with right of citizens to practise their religion freely.
 - (e) Either charges should not apply on Sunday mornings or church-goers should be provided with permits to exempt them from the charge.
8. In response, the potential effect of the proposals on those who attend City Centre churches, particularly those in the St Giles' area is noted. However in acknowledging these points it should be remembered that these proposals reinstate the position that applied for around 10 years up to December 2005. The suggestion of a 'churchgoers permit' is unworkable for a number of reasons including potential abuse by some and accusations of discrimination by others. On the suggestion that the proposal is an interference with rights of religious freedom the County Solicitor has advised that this is not the case.

Financial Implications (including Revenue)

9. The cost of implementing the charges set out in this report (including the costs of consultation, signing and machine alterations) will be funded from the parking account.

RECOMMENDATION

10. **The Cabinet Member for Transport is RECOMMENDED to approve the reintroduction of evening and Sunday Pay & Display charges in Oxford as advertised.**

STEVE HOWELL
Head of Highways & Transport
Environment & Economy

Background papers: Copies of all the letters and emails received in response are available in the Members' Resource room.

Contact Officer: David Tole Tel: 01865 815942

May 2011



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PROPOSED REINTRODUCTION OF EVENING AND SUNDAY PAY & DISPLAY CHARGES IN OXFORD

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (OXFORD CENTRAL AREA) (DESIGNATION AND REGULATION OF STREET PARKING PLACES) (VARIATION NO [6]) ORDER 20**

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (PAY & DISPLAY PARKING OXFORD CITY) (VARIATION NO 3) ORDER 20**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Oxfordshire County Council propose to make the above mentioned Orders under Sections 45 and 46 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling orders.

The effect of the proposed Orders will be to vary parking charges for on street parking in Oxford as follows:

- The charges currently applying Monday to Saturday at the following parking places will be extended to Sunday as listed:**

Location of Parking Place	Charging Hours – period of stay commencing between	Initial Charge	Initial Period
Beaumont Street (northern side), Blackhall Road, Cromwell Street, King Edward Street, Longwall Street, Merton Street, Museum Road, Parks Road, St Giles, Woodstock Road	8.00am to 6.30pm	£1.00 £2.50 £4.00	Up to 30 minutes Up to 1 hour Up to 2 hours (see point 3 below for Sunday evening parking)
Wellington Square	9.30am to 6.30pm		
Broad Street (Central Area)	8.00am to 6.30pm	£1.00 £2.50	Up to 30 minutes Up to 1 hour (see point 3 below for Sunday evening parking)

2. There will be charges on **Sunday** at the following parking places as listed:

Location of Parking Place	Charging Hours – period of stay commencing between	Initial Charge	Initial Period
Keble Road, Mansfield Road, Savile Road	8.00am to 10.00pm	£2.50	Any length of stay
Great Clarendon Street, Walton Street, Norham Gardens	8.00am to 10.00pm	£2.00	Any length of stay

3. There will be charges for parking **from 6.30pm** at the following parking places as listed:

Location of Parking Place	Charging Hours – period of stay commencing between	Initial Charge	Initial Period
Beaumont Street (northern and southern sides) , Blackhall Road, Broad Street (Central Area and northern and southern sides), Cromwell Street, Hythe Bridge Street, King Edward Street, Longwall Street, Merton Street, Museum Road, Parks Road, St Giles, Wellington Square, Woodstock Road	Monday to Sunday 6.30pm to 10.00pm	£2.50	Any length of stay
Keble Road, Mansfield Road, Savile Road	Monday to Saturday 6.30pm to 10.00pm	£2.50	Any length of stay (For Sunday evening parking see 2 above)
Great Clarendon Street, Walton Street, Norham Gardens	Monday to Saturday 6.30pm to 10.00pm	£2.00	Any length of stay (For Sunday evening parking see 2 above)
Where a vehicle is parked prior to 6.00pm and payment is made for 1 hour or 2 hours (or as applicable 3 hour) stay and this does not expire until after 6.30pm, then no further charge is required for parking on that day.			

4. The variation of charges made by notice of 19 August 2010 will be recorded in the orders.
 5. For information standard weekday charges apply on public and bank holidays.

Documents giving more detailed particulars of the Orders are available for public inspection at County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND from 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday. These documents are also available at <http://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/inovem/consult.ti/system/calendar>

Objections to the proposal, specifying the grounds on which they are made, and any other representations, should be sent in writing to the Director for Environment and Economy (ref.TRO/DMT) at the address given below no later than 24th March 2011. The County Council will consider objections and representations received in response to this Notice. They may be disseminated widely for these purposes and made available to the public.

Huw Jones, Director for Environment & Economy, Oxfordshire County Council, Speedwell House, Speedwell Street, Oxford, OX1 1NE