

SUBJECT:	One Hour Free Parking
REPORT OF:	<i>Councillor Mike Smith</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Chris Marchant Head of Environment
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WARD/S AFFECTED	Chalfont St Peter, Chalfont St Giles, Great Missenden and Little Chalfont

1. Purpose of Report

To advise Members how the existing schemes operate for those Parishes that previously requested that Chiltern District Council (CDC) provide one hour free parking in certain Council operated pay and display car parks in return for an annual payment, and review the future operation of this scheme.

RECOMMENDATION

- i) It is recommended that Cabinet confirm its agreement to the new formula, as detailed in Appendix A, and
- ii) That parishes be notified of the changes for the next financial year 2016/17, as detailed in Appendix A.

2. Content of Report

Previously a formula was agreed by Members whereby those Parishes who wished to implement a first hour free on a pay and display car park paid 39% of the value of the previous year one hour tickets issued. This percentage was arrived at based upon the increase in one hour tickets sales when they were free when the earliest scheme commenced, so that the Parishes, didn't pay the increase resulting from free tickets being issued rather than charged for. The costs were meant to be reviewed annually although historically this has not always happened.

South Bucks recently agreed to operate a first hour free scheme with Burnham Parish wherein all lost income will be reimbursed. Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe Councils do not offer similar schemes to their Parish/Town Councils.

Currently there are five schemes in place in CDC, in Little Chalfont, Chalfont St Giles, Chalfont St Peter and Great Missenden and Prestwood. The details of these schemes are attached at Appendix B

Currently when applying the agreed formula CDC could be considered to in effect receive reduced income against if there was an hour charge in place. However, it is of course very difficult to determine the actual number of one hour tickets which would be sold if hour charges were re-introduced.

It also needs to be born in mind that, whilst the one hour free tickets increased upon introduction of such schemes, there was in some locations a reduction in longer stay tickets issued. Customers, instead of staying for over an hour may well keep within the free hour and then leave the area.

A detailed report was presented to the Environmental PAG for consideration on 15th September 2015. The PAG requested that a new charging formula be devised and brought back to the PAG for consideration before Cabinet met in the autumn.

Having taken note of the EPAG's comments the revised formula based on a charge per space as set out in Appendix A. This was circulated to the PAG members and no adverse comments received. Efforts have been made to reduce any adverse impact upon the parishes and on this basis it is recommended that Cabinet confirm its agreement to the proposed new formula and that parishes be notified of the changes for the next financial year 2016/17.

3. Consultation

Officers would suggest that any proposed changes to the scheme would need to be discussed with the Parish Councils well ahead of their annual precept being set.

4. Options:

Detailed below are the options that Councillors may like to consider:

1. Continue with the current charge to each Parish with no change.
2. Introduce the proposed new formula supported by the Environment PAG which is detailed in Appendix A
3. Cancel the scheme at the end of the current financial year and re-introduce the 1 hour charge - this would not be popular with Parishes, who are trying to support local trade.

5. Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Finance - any arrangements agreed need to be as cost neutral as possible and it will be necessary to recover administrative costs and machine maintenance costs. The recharge to the Parishes includes VAT.
- 5.2 The total sum the Parishes pay CDC is currently £65,641 per annum.
- 5.3 Legal - A Memorandum of Understanding or further exchange of letters will need to be drawn up between CDC and the Parish Councils, as limited agreements are currently in place. Reintroducing 1 hour charges would require amendment to the parking charges to be agreed

6. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 6.1 By agreeing to continue with the current or a revised scheme CDC will be helping the Parishes to promote local communities and to enhance their local economy.

Background Papers:	Officer working papers
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One Hour Free Parking

Following the Environment PAG held on the 5 August 2015 we have produced a new formula which is in accordance with Members requests for simplicity and transparency. We have looked at a number of ticket issues as set out below.

Location	Basic Data		Revenue per space		Cost to Parish			
	no of spaces	no of free 1 hour tickets issued 2014/15	Using car parks where 1 hour is free calculated at 60p	Using existing 39% formula for 2015/2016 calculation	Calculation using revenue per space from free car parks when charged using existing formula	Machine maintenance calculated at £400 per machine per year	With maintenance charge added	Monthly charge
Buryfields Great Missenden	39	9645	£ 5,787.00	£ 2,256.93	£6,708.00	£400.00	£7,108.00	£592.33
Blizzards Yard Chalfont St Giles	94	68468	£ 41,080.80	£ 16,021.51	£16,168.00	£800.00	£16,968.00	£1,414.00
Church Lane Chalfont St Peter	165	97759	£ 58,655.40	£ 22,875.61	£21,500.00	£800.00	£22,300.00	£1,858.33
High Street Prestwood	47	68326	£ 40,995.60	£ 15,988.28	£8,084.00	£400.00	£8,484.00	£707.00
Snells Wood Little Chalfont	50	45971	£ 27,582.60	£ 10,757.21	£8,600.00	£800.00	£9,400.00	£783.33
Total			£174,101.40	£ 67,899.55	£61,060.00	£3,200.00	£64,260.00	
			Cost per space	Cost per space				
			£441	£172				

This table shows the charge to each parish based on the proposed new formula of £172 per space and £400 per machine. This formula means that parishes would pay a fixed charge each year that will only change for future years should the one hour charge be increased or there is a material change in the parking provision within a particular car park.

We have made every effort to find a formula that will keep increases to the parishes to a minimum but none of these have enabled us to improve on the proposed charge to be made to Blizzards Yard, Chalfont St Giles.

The figure for Buryfields, Great Missenden is increased, but because the figure for High Street Prestwood is much lower, the overall cost to Great Missenden Parish Council is hardly altered. All other Parishes are little affected.

Any comments or queries please email to parking@chiltern.gov.uk

Appendix B

Church Lane car park Chalfont St Peter's free hour was introduced in 2010. At the time the charge to the Parish was based on the annual paid 1 hour tickets issued 80790 @ 50p = £40,395. When the discount of 61% was applied this resulted in a charge to the Parish of £15,754 per annum. The Parish also paid a contribution to machine maintenance. Last year ticket sales were 97,759 @ 60p = £58,655. The discounted charge to the Parish is £22,875 plus machine maintenance.

Snells Wood car park in Little Chalfont's scheme commenced in 2013. The annual charge was £9,996 plus machine maintenance, the basis for this calculation is not clear, but using the latest one hour ticket sales of 45,971 @ 60p = £27,582. Applying the discount to 39% the Parish pay £10,757.

Blizzards Yard car park Chalfont St Giles set up a trial in 2011 with an annual charge of £9,942 to include machine maintenance. Last year the number of one hour free tickets issued was 68,468 @ 60p = £41,080. With the discount to 39% the Parish would pay £16,021 plus maintenance. The Parish are currently disputing these figures and are still paying the original figure.

Buryfields Great Missenden car park went live 2007. Cabinet minute in January 2007 states charges for Link Road and Buryfields should be the same. In November 2007 Great Missenden Parish advised that they no longer wanted to pay for Link Road free parking and this was withdrawn. No mention was made of Buryfields and this has remained free and the parish have not been charged - this car park is leased from the Parish and there is a profit share clause that has not come into effect yet - there are on-going negotiations on this matter.

High St Prestwood has had in place their free first hour arrangements going back to before 2000. To enable a better comparison between Parishes we are looking at a charge to the Parish in 2011 of £13,444, with no mention of machine maintenance. Latest figures show 1 hour ticket issues at 68,326 @ 60p = £40,996. With the discount the Parish pays £15,988 plus maintenance.