

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**CABINET
TUESDAY 25TH JANUARY 2011**

**Recommendations from Community and Regeneration Scrutiny
Committee, Thursday 6th January 2011**

Parking Review Phase II Review Panel

The Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee received recommendations from the Chairman of the Parking Phase II Review Panel, following completion of the scrutiny review.

The Council's current parking charges in its pay and display car parks differ across the three towns with differing charging periods and differing charges being applied.

In Kidderminster there are differing car park charges for car parks which have developed over time.

The aim of the second stage of the Parking Review is to assume a more consistent and rational approach to charges in the towns of Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport and the Review Panel was tasked with scrutinising the Cabinets proposals.

The proposed new charges if agreed by Council as part of the budget in February 2011 would come into effect on car parks in October 2011 and are based on the application of three charging rates within towns depending on the location of the car park to the principal town centre retail function.

The Zoning Proposals

Central Car Parks

The central car parks are : Market Street, Kidderminster, Raven Street, Stourport and Load Street Bewdley. All three towns will have the same charging applied and this will see an 'up to 30 minutes' charge introduced in Kidderminster and Stourport and an 'up to 1 hour' charge in Stourport. The 'Up to 2 hours' in Raven Street will be removed.

Inner Car Parks

Inner car parks will cover all the car parks within the Kidderminster immediate town centre vicinity, the Riverside car parks in Stourport, (Bridge Street if it is brought into operation) and Dog Lane in Bewdley. There will be a range of pricing in these car parks that facilitate short, medium and long stay. Whilst it is intended that all towns will have identical charges for periods of stay 'up to 3 hours' the 'over 3 hours' and it is intended that the 24-48 hour periods in Stourport and Bewdley will be set higher than Kidderminster to reflect the visitor trade that those two towns attract which places greater demand on long stay spaces. It is recognised that demand for spaces from visitors in the two market towns places greater pressure on their use and therefore a higher charge is more appropriate than in Kidderminster to encourage long stay parking in these towns to migrate to the outer car parks.

Outer Car Parks

The 'Outer Rate' will apply to those car parks outside the immediate vicinity of the town centre in Kidderminster – Castle Road, Comberton Place, Stadium Close, Horsefair and St. Mary's (and Broadwaters if charges are introduced), Vale Road and the Sports Centre in Stourport and Gardner's Meadow in Bewdley. Here, three key elements of charge apply: firstly, the first hour of any stay will be at no charge, there then applies the same prices as 'Inner Car Parks' for period of up to 2 and 3 hours but significantly lower charges for all day and longer charges.

Rural Car Park

The Avenue in the village of Blakedown will be recognised as a Rural Car Park although other than an inflationary increase, no amendments are proposed to the charging periods introduced in October 2010.

Recommended to Cabinet:

- 1. 60 minutes free parking Monday to Saturday and 90 minutes free parking on Sundays for outer car parks.**
- 2. The disparity in the inner charging rate be adjusted so that Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley have a universal charge of £4.30 for over 3 hours and £8.60 for 24-48 hours.**
- 3. Further investigation be made regarding the possibility of other groups running the Horsefair car park.**
- 4. To allow the use of restricted passes in Dog Lane, Bewdley, permanently, not just for a transition period.**
- 5. The Panel acknowledges this is a change in the way the Council's parking system is due to operate and feels it would be appropriate to have a review of the charges and the assumptions made after 12 months from implementation.**