



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Our Ref: WOT/CP/00

Cllr J Cordwell
Wotton-under-Edge Chamber of Trade

24th April 2009

Dear June

Re: Car Parking Management, Wotton-Under-Edge

Further to our recent meetings, please find set out below a summary of an outline proposal for the possible introduction of car parking charges in Wotton, for the Chamber of Trade's consideration;

The Proposed Scheme:

The following scheme has been considered (see also the summary in attached table):

Stroud District Council (SDC) could impose and enforce charges on the three main town centre car parks. In order to achieve this it would need to enter into a management agreement with the Town Council and a management agreement or new lease with the Town Trust.

- a) The Civic Centre car park and Potters Pond car parks would remain as Long Stay (23 hours). The Chipping car park is changed to all short stay (4 hours).
- b) Enforcement levels in the town are increased to 2.5 days per week; this would mean the recruitment of an additional part-time Enforcement Officer. Current levels of enforcement are not considered sufficient to support the successful introduction of charges.
- c) Charging hours suggested to be between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Saturday. Tariffs would be increased regularly to a level at least in line with inflation over the period of the management agreement and to cover all costs.
- d) All three car parks, plus an additional area at the Chipping would be included in the District's Off-Street Parking Places Order.

Financial Model

Initial estimates of Income and Expenditure and set up costs have been made based on the tariffs suggested. These take a cautious view and are based on a low occupancy level (50%). The tariffs are set to ensure good traffic management and are aimed at covering costs. Clearly there are many variables in these estimates and the impact of charges on parking patterns and occupancy levels are difficult to predict. Changes may arise from public consultation which could considerably affect the model. The model currently shows that it would take 4 years to pay back the initial capital outlay needed to introduce charges.

Consultation

Any proposal to introduce charges for parking will be controversial and in a small market town, such as Wotton-Under-Edge it is important to set the charges at the right level, to achieve a



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reasonable balance between short and long stay spaces and to agree a limit on parking permits. This is critical to ensuring that charges support the town's economy by providing an adequate turnover of spaces, particularly in an economic down turn.

I would emphasise that the District Council will not consider imposing charges unless it receives a formal request to do so from the Chamber of Trade and the Town Council and I look forward to hearing the outcome of your Committee's discussion tomorrow.

I hope that I have adequately outlined the proposed scheme but should you have any queries or need any further information for your members to consider, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Fisk
Head of Asset Management (Job Share)

Enc. Summary Scheme

cc Gareth Kitchen, Chamber of Trade
Glenys Sykes Clerk, WUE Town Council