

CHARLBURY TOWN COUNCIL
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY 17TH JANUARY 2024

Item 8: Parking in Charlbury

For decades, in council surveys and anecdotally, parking has featured as residents' number 1 gripe about the town and fixing parking their number 1 priority. Pressures are getting worse by the month and it is time for the council to consider some effective solutions.

8.1 What are the problems?

1. **Residents own and wish to park more cars on the street.**
2. **Some rail users seek to avoid the £4.70 daily car parking charge at the station** by parking in nearby (as noted in the separate paper on residents' parking schemes) Parking charges were introduced at Charlbury station and ever since, there has been displacement of parking caused by rail users trying to avoid paying the charge.
3. **Business employees are parking on the street** in much greater numbers – for example, employees at the Bell regularly park on Church Street despite its ample car park. Little Monkeys, The Bull, Amarelo and Chloe's probably contribute to on-street employee parkers, no to mention the busy offices around the town centre.
4. **Locals may drive more than they used to** to shops.
5. **Outside visitors to businesses**, especially the Bull Friday–Sunday, cause severe parking problems in the Church St area.

We can see what most of the problems are without the end for an in-depth quantitative survey, although some qualitative observations might be helpful?

8.2 What potential solutions are there?

1. **Reduce demand for car parking:**
 - 8.2.1 Encourage and facilitate more walking and cycling into town amongst local drivers/parkers
 - 8.2.2 Reduce car ownership locally – despite a higher percentage of respondents to a council survey saying they *would* join an EV car-sharing scheme, take up of the existing ICE car-sharing scheme (HiyaCar) has been negligible – although Cllr Green believes that a different (cheaper) model might have more success and he is pursuing this currently.
 - 8.2.3 Find ways for businesses to thrive with fewer car visitors (*Visit Charlbury by*

Train! etc.) and deliveries (the town is probably too small for an out-of-town hub?).

2. **Address station car park avoiders** – but how?
3. **Have business sign up to a pledge whereby all employees agree to park at an edge-of-town facility** rented by the council and walk 5 minutes into work – e.g. at the Cricket Club.
4. **Make better use of existing car parking facilities:**
 - 1.1 facilitate office/weekday worker parking in underused car parks – e.g., the Bell;
 - 1.2 facilitate evening/weekend parking in underused car parks – e.g. Lycetts/HNVS behind the Spendlove, and the Doctor’s Surgery;
 - 1.3 have planning regs enforced – e.g. the Bull car park is supposed to have room for 12 cars but only a handful of workers or customers can generally access the car park at any given time
 - 1.4 consider reconfiguring some existing on-street parking – e.g. could the west side of Church St accommodate some 90° parking?
5. **Open a new public car park** – a task and finish group would be needed to identify potential locations that are within walking distance of Bull crnr and potential customers of the hostelryes – and bearing in mind the Rushy Bank application in terms of Section 106 monies that could be directed towards a bus service brining those who have parked at e.g., the Cricket Club, up to the town centre. (It is one thing asking employees to walk five minutes each way to work but for customers going for a night out at the Bull etc., less likely to succeed)
6. **Residents’ parking scheme** – Survey residents to assess their appetite for a central zone residents’ parking scheme. This would make life easier for residents but would affect the ability of customers to access businesses unless their transport habits change. So we would also need to provide ore disabled and short-term parking for deli, chemist and many other businesses on Market St, Sheep St and Church Street. Without excessive overspill to adjacent area. (See separate paper from Cllr Epps on this: ‘Residents Parking 0124’.)

James Styring – 12 January 2023