Sturminster Newton Town Council

5th November 2020

Proposed changes in Dorset Council Car Parks

1. **Introduction**
   Matthew Piles, Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Infrastructure at the Dorset Council has written to inform the Town Council of Dorset Council public car park changes.

2. **Proposal**
   Below is the text from the email received on 16th October 2020.

   A project was started in January 2020 to look at car park charges across the new Dorset Council area. It was considered that car park charges were not consistent or fair and that changes needed to be made. As well as this, some charges had not been reviewed for several years. It is the intention of Dorset Council to charge from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Sunday in all Dorset Council public car parks. This will mean a longer charging day and charging on Sunday. As per our legal duty, notices of this change will be published two weeks before the change date. To continue to support local business, Dorset Council intends to update the Parking Policy. The change is as follows:
   • Four days each year when the Town Councils can use the Dorset Council public car parks for events which generate valuable footfall for businesses. The four days cannot be used during weekends in December.
   • Free parking in all Dorset Council public car parks on Small Business Saturday in December
   • Free parking in all Dorset Council public car parks on one weekday in December Finally, I would like to direct you to a consultation on Shoppers Permits that Parking Services is undertaking, that will be available on the Dorset Council website in the next few weeks. Shoppers Permits have been running in West Dorset for 23 years. Their original purpose was to entice residents into shopping locally by giving them heavily discounted parking in local short stay car parks; it is felt that this is something that is still very relevant now. The consultation will explore the potential to create a Dorset Council wide Shoppers Permit. Your support in completing this questionnaire would be much appreciated so that a decision on viability can be made. Queries/comments would be appreciated within four weeks from receipt of this email**.**

3. **Recommendation**

   It is recommended that the Town Council responds with any queries/comments to the Dorset Council on each point as follows:
   - Charge from 8am to 8pm, Monday to Sunday in all Dorset Council public car parks.
   - Four days each year when the Town Councils can use the Dorset Council public car parks for events which generate valuable footfall for businesses.
   - The four days cannot be used during weekends in December.
   - Free parking in all Dorset Council public car parks on Small Business Saturday in December. • Free parking in all Dorset Council public car parks on one weekday in December.
   - Support for a Dorset Council wide Shoppers Permit.

Emma Lindsay
Town Clerk