



Environment Committee

11 March 2021

Title	Car Park Charging - Parks
Report of	Chairman of Environment Committee
Wards	Hale, Mill Hill, Underhill and West Hendon
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1 – New Car Parks Fees and Charges Appendix 2 – Statutory Consultation Report Appendix 3 – Public Consultation Report Appendix 4 – Consultation Poster
Officer Contact Details	Cassie Bridger: Assistant Director: Greenspaces and Leisure 020 8359 2308: Cassie.Bridger@barnet.gov.uk Matthew Gunyon: Greenspaces Service Manager 020 8359 7403: Matthew.Gunyon@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

In January 2019 the Committee were asked to consider the implementation of charging for the use of car parks in parks and open spaces. The Committee subsequently requested that the Executive Director for Environment undertake public consultation on each location and report back the findings to be considered on a site basis prior to any implementation.

This report sets out the statutory consultation delivered between August – September 2019 and the resident consultation undertaken from November 2020 – January 2021, providing responses to each of the Phase 1 proposals located in Appendix 2 and 3 of this report.

The findings indicate the range of uses for each car park which has been considered when developing the proposed charging schedule for each individual location. Thus, also providing mitigations to the concerns raised by residents.

Any revenue generated through implementing this scheme will contribute towards the ongoing maintenance of parks and open spaces across Barnet.

, Committee are requested to approve the implementation and charging across the following sites.

- Mill Hill Park
- Old Courthouse Recreation Ground
- Scratchwood Open Space
- West Hendon Playing Fields

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the Environment Committee having considered the consultation responses set out in Appendix 2 and 3 of the report agrees charging for the use of the car park in Mill Hill Park as proposed in this report.**
- 2. That the Environment Committee agrees to the implement new fees and charges for Mill Hill Park car park as set out in Appendix 1, which were included in the budget proposals submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee**
- 3. That the Environment Committee having considered the consultation responses set out in Appendix 2 and 3 of the report agrees charging for the use of the car park in Old Courthouse Recreation Ground as proposed in this report.**
- 4. That the Environment Committee agrees to the implement new fees and charges for Old Courthouse Recreation Ground car park as set out in Appendix 1, which were included in the budget proposals submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee**
- 5. That the Environment Committee agrees having considered the consultation responses set out in Appendix 2 and 3 of the report charging for the use of the car park in Scratchwood Open Space as proposed in this report subject to a suitable alternative enforcement system or approach being implemented**
- 6. That the Environment Committee agrees to the implement new fees and charges for Scratchwood Open Space car park as set out in Appendix 1, which were included in the budget proposals submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee**
- 7. That the Environment Committee agrees having considered the consultation responses set out in Appendix 2 and 3 of the report charging for the use of the car park in West Hendon Playing Fields as proposed in this report.**
- 8. That the Environment Committee agrees to the implement new fees and charges for West Hendon Playing Fields car park as set out in Appendix 1, which were included in the budget proposals submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1.1 The parks identified in this report all have a car park in which the primary function is to service the park and its users. The car parks are used by a range of users to; access park facilities, visit local businesses, provide access to town centres and for those commuting to and from the area. The proposed approach is designed to safeguard parks facilities primarily for users with the associated revenue contributing towards the cost of maintaining parks and open spaces across the Borough

This report sets out the results of to the statutory consultation completed by Highways between 8 August to 7 September 2019 (for Old Courthouse Recreation Ground, Scratchwood Open Space & West Hendon Playing Fields) and between 28 November to 24 December 2019 on each of the proposed Phase 1 charging locations. In addition to the public consultation undertaken between 30 November 2020 to 10 January 2021.

- 1.1.1.1 The 2019 Statutory Consultation followed the statutory process under sections 6, 30, 32, 35 and 124 and Part III for Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Act 1984. During this consultation residents expressed their concern over the type of consultation undertaken.
 - 1.1.1.2 In consideration and following advice from HB Public Law the Council delayed any reporting the proposals to Committee until a public consultation was completed.
 - 1.1.1.3 In November 2020 the Council launched a public consultation under Section 19 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976. The public consultation was designed to ascertain how the car parks were used in addition, providing residents with an opportunity to express their views on the individual site proposals
 - 1.1.1.4 The results of which are located within Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.
 - 1.1.1.5 It is proposed that all sites identified within Phase 1 will be set up to accept Pay by Phone only, the service will monitor the accessibility of this approach for a minimum of six months. If this method is considered to cause a negative impact and where deemed appropriate, alternative solutions such as parking machines can be installed.
- 1.1.2 Should the committee be minded to approve this report it is proposed that the charging model commences in the 2020/21 fiscal year in line with the fees and charges set out in the Business Planning Paper approved at Policy and Resources Committee February 2021.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the site-specific charging schedule for each location which has been developed based on the results of the consultation findings and benchmarked using fees applied at existing locations such as Hendon Park.

1.2 Car Parks within Parks & Open Spaces

The table below sets out a list of all car parks locations within parks and open spaces in the borough.

Table 1

Park Name	Road name	Town	Ward
Barnet Playing Fields*	Barnet Lane	Underhill	Underhill
Bethune Recreation Ground	Beaconsfield Road	Friern Barnet	Coppetts
Brook Farm/Wyatts Farm	High Road	Whetstone	Totteridge
Copthall Playing Fields	Page Street	Mill Hill	Mill Hill
Glebelands	Summers Lane	Finchley	Woodhouse
Hendon Park	Queens Road	Hendon	West Hendon
King George V Playing Fields*	Barnet lane	Barnet	Totteridge
Mill Hill Park	Daws Lane	Mill Hill	Mill Hill
Moat Mount Open Space	Barnet Way	Mill Hill	Hale
Oak Hill Park	Parkside Gardens	East Barnet	East Barnet
Old Courthouse Recreation Ground	Manor Close	High Barnet	Underhill
Scratchwood Open Space	Barnet Way North Bound	Mill Hill	Hale
Tudor Sports Ground	Clifford Road	New Barnet	High Barnet
Victoria Rec Recreation Ground	Park Road	East Barnet	East Barnet **
West Hendon Playing Fields	Goldsmith Avenue	West Hendon	West Hendon

*Barnet Playing Fields and King George V Playing Fields have been removed from Phase 1 as this would be linked to the future proposed Sports Hub Master Plan and as the site currently has low levels of usage.

**This is the park car park off Park Road not the Leisure Centre car park off Lawton Road, which is outside of these proposals.

Key	
	Existing scheme in place
	Phase 1
	Possible future sites

1.2.1.1 Phase 1 Sites

1.2.1.1.1 Two separate consultations were completed for each location.

- A statutory consultation which was completed on a site by site basis, the consultation report is provided under Appendix 2 of this report.
- A public consultation which covered all four sites, a consultation report is provided under Appendix 3 of this report.

1.2.1.1.2 Communication was provided via Statutory Notices which were placed in each car park location in addition to Ward Members, local stakeholders and community

organisations who were informed of the consultation. In addition, posters were displayed within each park outlining the consultation information.

1.2.1.1.3 A summary of site-specific information can be found in sections 1.2.1.2, 1.2.1.3, 1.2.1.4 and 1.2.1.5

1.2.1.1.4 Key headline information from the public consultation indicated.

1.2.1.1.4.1 A total of 537 residents responded to the online consultation and a further 11 responses were received via email.

1.2.1.1.4.2 The most popular car parks used were the Mill Park car parks (Daws Lane and Wise Lane).

1.2.1.1.4.3 When asked for what purpose users used the car parks (multiple responses were permitted).

- 82% of respondents noted that they use the car parks to visit the parks
- 26% of respondents noted that they use the car parks to either visit or work in local area (includes local workers, visiting local shops and residents).

1.2.1.1.4.4 82% of respondents either tended to disagree or strongly disagreed with the proposals.

1.2.1.1.4.5 334 respondents provided further comments which along with the 11 emailed responses were read and coded into key themes

Theme	No Comments
Proposals will affect parks user / parks should be free	138
Negative Comment in relation to proposed tariff / Suggested alternative approach	127
Positive Comment in relation to proposed tariff / Suggested alternative approach	72
Proposals will impact on local residential roads	70
The car park supports local businesses & Schools	32
Proposals will impact low income families	24
The legality of parking charges being introduced	17
No evidence has been provided of commuter parking	15
There is no evidence this is an issue	12
Parks covenants need to be considered	10
Negative comment in relation to the approach to the consultation	10
Income should be ring fenced for parks and open spaces	4
How will the car parking be managed?	4
Concerns over the payment systems	2

1.2.1.1.4.6 The main concern raised through the consultations related to maintaining access to parks and open spaces.

- 1.2.1.1.4.7 The proposals have been developed on a site by site basis taking into consideration, location, existing use, proximity to amenities and connections to public transport. For, e.g. Old Courthouse Recreation Ground has a small car park and is very close to Chipping Barnet town centre and Mill Hill Park, which is in proximity to public transport, offering connectivity.
- 1.2.1.1.4.8 Alternative models were proposed through the consultation such as having a short charged for period in the middle of day to discourage commuter and all-day parking. Whilst it is noted this would meet the aim to protect the car parks for genuine parks users it would not provide the opportunity to generate revenue to offset the cost of maintaining the boroughs parks and open spaces.
- 1.2.1.1.4.9 Respondents also noted that the car parks supported staff from local businesses and schools as such as noted in 1.2.1.2 Mill Hill Park and 1.2.15 West Hendon Playing Fields the proposed tariff structure allows for the provision of Business Permits to be sold for these car parks.

1.2.1.2 Mill Hill Park (Daws Lane and Wise Lane car parks)

Park Name	Road Name	Town	Ward	Number of Bays	Time Band		Proposed Tariff	
Mill Hill Park – Daws Lane Car Park	Daws Lane	Mill Hill	Mill Hill	92 spaces 50/50 split between Short and Long Stay Bays.	Monday – Saturday 8:30-18:00	Short Stay Bays	Up to 2 hours***	FOC
						Short Stay Bays	Up to 3 hours	£2.00
						Short Stay Bays	Up to 4 hours	£3.00
						Long Stay Bays	All Day	£6.00
Mill Hill Park – Wise Lane Car Park	Wise Lane	Mill Hill	Mill Hill	Approx. 20 mix of marked and unmarked bays	Monday – Saturday 8:30-18:00	Short Stay Bays	Up to 2 hours***	FOC
						Short Stay Bays	Up to 3 hours	£2.00
						Short Stay Bays	Up to 4 hours	£3.00
Permits will be issued to the Café, Nursery and Bowls Club for their use.								
Post Consultation amendment – Business Permits to be made available for purchase for local businesses and schools								

*** To cover usage by football pitch bookings

- 1.2.1.2.1 Through both consultations a number site specific concerns and suggestions were raised these have been noted below.

Concern/Suggestion	Response/Mitigation
--------------------	---------------------

The legality of raising revenue through car parking charges	Under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the council has wide powers to provide such recreational facilities as it thinks fit. Section 19(1)(f) specially states that the facilities that the authority is empowered to provide under the section include "facilities by way of parking spaces" and sub-section (2) states that "a local authority may make any facilities available for use either without charge or on payment of such charges as the authority thinks fit."
Restrictive covenants in place for the park	Upon inspection of the parks covenants there are no restrictions that would that would not allow implementation of the proposals
The approach to the consultation	Following the close and review of the previous statutory consultation it was decided a second public consultation should be completed as set out in section 1.2.1.1.2 and Appendix 3 of this document

1.2.1.3 Old Courthouse Recreation Ground

Park Name	Road name	Town	Ward	Number of Bays	Time Band	Draft Price	
Old Courthouse Recreation Ground	Manor Close	High Barnet	Underhill	Approx. 20	Monday – Saturday 8:30-18:00	Up to 30 mins	FOC
						Up to 1 hour	£1.00
						Up to 2 hours	£1.50
						Up to 3 hours	£2.00

1.2.1.3.1 Through both consultations a number site specific concerns and suggestions were raised these have been noted below.

Concern/Suggestion	Response/Mitigation
Will impact users of the high street	Whilst it is acknowledged that the car park is often used by visitors to the nearby High Street, the car park is fundamentally available to provide and support access for users of the park.
30 mins free is not enough / Suggested 1 hour free of charge	The proposed model of 30 minutes free of charge is currently available in Hendon Park, which is also located near to a High Street. There is currently a dedicated car park to the High Street on Moxon Street which offers one-hour free parking. As such, there are no amendments proposed to the charging structure outlined.

1.2.1.4 Scratchwood Open Space

Park Name	Road name	Town	Ward	Number of Bays	Time Band	Draft Price	
Scratchwood Open Space	Barnet Way North Bound	Mill Hill	Hale	Approx. 80 unmarked	Monday – Sunday 24 hours per day	Up to 1 hour	50p
						Up to 2 hours	£1.00
						Up to 3 hours	£2.00
						Up to 4 hours	£3.00
						All Day	£6.00

1.2.1.4.1 Through both consultations a number site specific concerns and suggestions were raised these have been noted below.

Concern/Suggestion	Response/Mitigation
2 Hours free of charge	The proposed tariff has been developed to discourage the car park being used by those that do so for anti-social purposes

1.2.1.4.2 Due to the remoteness of the open space the council is keen to investigate an alternative approach for management and enforcement for example using Automatic Number Plate Recognition.

1.2.1.4.3 As such should the committee be minded to approve recommendation 5 & 6 the council will delay implementing the proposals for this location until such options have been explored thoroughly.

1.2.1.5 West Hendon Playing Fields

Park Name	Road name	Town	Ward	Number of Bays	Draft - Time Band	Draft Price	
West Hendon Playing Fields – Large Car Park	Goldsmith Avenue	West Hendon	West Hendon	Approx. 70	Monday – Saturday 8:30-18:00	Up to 2 hours***	FOC
						Up to 3 hours	£2.00
						Up to 4 hours	£3.00
						All Day	£6.00
West Hendon Playing Fields – Small Car Park	Goldsmith Avenue	West Hendon	West Hendon	The car park would be locked with access only permitted to the Nursery and Bowls Club.			
Post Consultation amendment – Business Permits to be made available for purchase for local businesses and schools							

*** To cover usage by football pitch bookings

1.2.1.5.1 No specific comments were received in relation to West Hendon Playing Fields.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 In January 2019, Committee requested consideration of each individual site and to report back on the outcome of the consultation process. There is a total of 4 sites included within Phase 1 delivery and it is anticipated that a Phase 2 review is undertaken in 2021/22, the results of which reported back to a future meeting.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 The proposals form part of the Environment Committee Savings Plan (MTFS) for 2020/21. No alternative options have been considered as the above recommendations will contribute to the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 If the Committee is minded to approve the recommendations set out in this paper, then the Greenspaces Team will arrange for the installation of any infrastructure and signage required to commence implementation from April 2021.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan says: -

- Barnet's Parks and Greenspaces will be amongst the best in London.
- Resident feedback consistently shows that Barnet's Park and Greenspaces are amongst its biggest assets and a strong influence for people deciding to live here.
- The Council recognises this and will continue to ensure that the Borough's Parks and Greenspaces are looked after.
- The Council will develop more innovative ways of maintaining its Parks and Greenspaces; including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the Borough.

5.1.2 Local Plan Policy CS7 says the Council will create a greener Borough by: -

- Enhancing open spaces to provide improvements in overall quality and accessibility.
- Meeting increased demand for access to open space and opportunities for physical activity.
- By tackling deficiencies and under provision.

5.1.3 Investment in and improvement of Barnet's greenspaces to support growth and wellbeing in Barnet will also result in the delivery of a range of outcomes linked to other Council strategies: -

- Growth Strategy: creating the environment for growth.
- Regeneration Strategy.
- Community Safety Strategy.

- Entrepreneurial Barnet Strategy.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 Finance, Value for Money, and Procurement –

5.2.2 The proposed charging model is based on the tariff schedule currently in place and effective at Hendon Park. Initial indicative modelling suggests a net revenue in the order of £150,000 per annum is achievable based on delivering all the Phase 1 locations.

5.2.3

5.2.4 If capital costs are required to install infrastructure and enable the introduction of charging in park car parks. A capital bid will be made to Policy and Resources Committee for acceptance and inclusion in the capital programme.

The Constitution requires that all changes to fees and charges should be included in the budget proposals submitted by theme Committees to the Policy & Resources Committee.

5.3 **Staffing** – Delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy will require appropriate capacity and capability in the organisation, including within the commissioning arrangements.

5.4 **IT** – None currently

5.5 **Sustainability** – The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and associated initiatives detailed in this report seek to protect, improve, and enhance the natural environment of Barnet. The individual projects to be delivered during implementation of the strategy will be developed and delivered in accordance with both environmental and financial principles.

5.6 Social Value

5.6.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic, and environmental benefits. The key themes within the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy are:

- Social outcomes and benefits.
- Environmental Outcomes and Benefits.
- Economic Outcomes and Benefits.

5.7 Legal and Constitutional References

5.7.1 Local authorities have several different statutory powers in relation to parks and open spaces, the purchase and maintenance of public walks or pleasure grounds under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, including wide powers to provide recreational facilities. The Open Spaces Act 1906 provides that local authorities shall hold and administer open space in trust to allow the enjoyment of it by the public and shall maintain and keep the open space in a good and decent state.

5.7.2 The Council's Constitution (Article 7 – Committees, Forums and Partnerships) sets out the terms of reference for the Environment Committee: -

- 1) "Responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-constituency matters relating to the street-scene including parking, road safety, lighting, street cleaning, transport, waste, waterways, refuse, recycling, allotments, parks, trees, crematoria and mortuary, trading standards and environmental health;
- 2) To submit to the Policy and Resources Committee proposals relating to the Committee's budget for the following year in accordance with the budget timetable.
- 3) To make recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee on issues relating to the budget for the Committee, including virements or underspends and overspends on the budget. No decisions which result in amendments to the agreed budget may be made by the Committee unless and until the amendment has been agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 4) To receive reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee."

5.7.3 The council's Financial Regulations can be found at:<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s60716/Appendix%20L%20-%20Financial%20Regulations%20Tracked.pdf>

5.7.4 Changes to fees and charges should be included in the budget proposals submitted by theme Committees or the relevant committee to the Policy & Resources Committee. The budget recommended by Policy and Resources Financial Committee to Full Council will incorporate the latest projection of income from fees and charges. Full Council will approve all fees and charges as part of the budget report

5.8 Risk Management

5.8.1 The management of risk is undertaken on a continual basis and reported as part of the Council's Quarterly Performance regime and considered as part of the Performance and Contract Management Committee quarterly monitoring report.

5.8.2 Risks are managed through the project boards and are reviewed and revised at board meetings. The current key risk areas are: -

	Rating Criteria	1: Low	2: Medium	3: High
1.	Total investment required	X		
2.	Potential benefits	X		
3.	Return on investment	X		
4.	Planning	X		
5.	Political sensitivity		X	
6.	Fit with corporate objectives	X		
7.	Users/DU's impacted		X	
	Total score	9		

5.9 Equalities and Diversity

5.9.1 Under section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 (EA 2010) the Council must, in the exercise of its functions have due regard to the need to: -

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.9.2 Relevant protected characteristics are: - age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

5.9.3 The purpose of the initiatives described in this report is to ensure that the broad diversity of Barnet's residents and communities continue to enjoy the benefits of these community assets and that their needs and aspirations are reflected in the provision that the Council makes.

5.9.4 Equalities Impact Assessments will be developed on a scheme by scheme basis to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and that the needs of the communities and groups are fully taken into account in the development of schemes.

5.10 Consultation and Engagement

5.10.1 Mill Hill Park, Old Courthouse Recreation Ground, Scratchwood Open Space and West Hendon Playing Fields all followed a statutory consultation approach used for the implementation of a Traffic Management Order (TMO); a notice was placed in the local newspaper and at each site setting out the proposals and how to make a representation.

5.10.2 Following the completion of the statutory consultations advice was received which identified that a public consultation would be more appropriate and that the council should utilise the statutory powers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 as set out in 5.7.1 of this report rather than a Traffic Management Order.

5.10.3 To remedy this the council undertook a six-week public consultation from 30 November 2020 to 10 January 2021 results of which are set out in Appendix 3 of this report. Posters (Appendix 4) were displayed in the parks and all ward members, stakeholder groups and tenants within the respective parks were written to directly informing them of the consultation, this communication included a copy of the poster.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 [21 January 2019 Environment Committee, Item 8 – Car Parking Charging - Parks](#)

6.2 [28 November 2018 Environment Committee, Item 11 - Implementation of the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy](#)