



## THE EAST COULSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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30<sup>th</sup> October 23

**Dear Sir or Madam**

### **Response to Croydon Parking Strategy**

East Coulsdon Residents Association is one of the main residents' associations in Coulsdon. Please find our response to Croydon Council's parking strategy

We would like to point out how important an adequate parking strategy is for Croydon and the requirements of the many district centres such as Coulsdon. Nearly all of the district centres in Croydon are adjacent to local district centres in nearby boroughs or over the border in Surrey. Most of these areas have fairly liberal parking strategies compared to Croydon. It is very easy once you are in a car to drive to one of these alternative district centres rather than park, shop or visit places such as Coulsdon.

We note that one of the aims of the strategy is **supporting our local economy** It is important to recognise that district centres through the borough, such as Coulsdon are destination places where people go to shop, visit, attend appointments and medical establishments. Although the existing one hour free parking works well. Some of these visits can take an hour or more and require more than a hour parking.

We therefore believe that the proposed reduction in the one-hour free parking is wrong and should not only be retained, but extended to two hours with the second hour paid for at a reasonable price.

East Coulsdon RA is of the view that the following points should be addressed in the parking Strategy:

- The one-hour free parking in District centres should remain with a second hour paid for at low cost.
- Parking should continue to be free between 5.00pm and 9.00am Monday to Saturday and free all day on Sundays and Bank holidays
- Parking meters should be kept with a ticket and the second hour to be paid for by bankcard, phone or app, but not cash.
- Sufficient disabled bays should be included.
- Sufficient loading bays should be provided and these should allow loading into private cars.
- Pavement parking especially in the town centres should not be allowed and needs to be enforced.



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- Smaller shopping parades should continue to have one-hour free parking without the need to obtain a ticket, this should be enforced to stop all day parking.
- Better enforcement to prevent *feeding the meter* to ensure parking is for visitors to the town.

### Residential Streets

- Pavement parking should continue to be allowed on the existing residential roads that have designated pavement parking, such as Downs Road, Rutherford Rise and at the Lacy Green shopping parade in Coulsdon Road.
- The existing local Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) around stations must remain.
- Additional electric charging points are needed, but these should not be placed in existing roads that suffer from parking stress.

### Car Parks :

- Lion Green Car park should remain free between 5.00pm and 9.00am Monday to Saturday and free on Sundays.
- Lion Green car park needs the correct ratio of short term and long-term parking
- Adequate number of electric charging points in car parks.
- Where electric charging points have not been taken up by 10.00am other vehicles may be allowed to use the designated bays.
- Aldi and Waitrose car parks should remain free for an hour and half for shoppers in Coulsdon Town Centre as well their customers.

### Car parking charges :

- We note that the intention s to simplify charges, we have concerns that in past simplification has led to increased parking charges. Simplification should not be used to make a general increase in charges.
- Car parking charges need to be both reasonable and understandable. As the number of electric and hybrid vehicles increase, there is no need to have an emission-based parking policy which is not understood. Charging should be based on time and place.
- Residential parking permits in controlled should be at a reasonable price.
- People who do not have access to smart phones and modern technology need to be able to park and pay.

Yours

*Charles King*

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