



THE EAST COULSDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



www.eastcoulsdon.co.uk

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6th May 2024

Dear Jayne Rusbach

Parking Charges Statutory Consultation 18th April 2024

Please find the East Coulsdon RA's response to the Parking Charges consultation. We welcome the adoption of our suggestion for district centres of 1-hour free parking and a second hour paid for at a sensible price. We also welcome that this will be standardised across the Borough. This should enable the district centres to remain viable against district centres in adjacent Boroughs.

We also note you intend to extend the controls to the currently 1-hour free and second hour no return to local area shopping parades such as the Tudor Parade and Lacey Green in Old Coulsdon along with Rickman Hill in Chipstead Valley Road and similar parades across the Borough which have never previously been metered or controlled in such a way as it is proposed. This will assist against those few who park for more than one hour. It may also have a detrimental impact on these local shops and economy. The Government guidelines on enforcement issued by the DfT require the local economy to be taken into consideration. www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-enforcement-of-parking-contraventions/guidance-for-local-authorities-on-enforcing-parking-restrictions

However, we do feel that the need to use the parking app, phone RingGo or visit a Pay Point shop does take some time and can be inconvenient for very short-term parking. It is also detrimental and discriminatory against those who do not have or cannot use a mobile phone, particularly the elderly of which there is a large number in the local area.

We believe to cater for this that there should be a 15-minute grace period. This would also enable people who just want to drop off or pick up somebody or something from a local shop or business the ability to do so without risk of incurring a penalty charge. This is common practice in Supermarkets that allow 10-15 minutes grace to pick up or drop off or in some cases enter and leave the car park if there are no vacant spaces. Railway stations allow a 20-minute free period for dropping off and picking up people or for making and enquiry at the booking office. Again, the Government guide lines suggest at least 10 minutes.

Lion Green car park is essential to the Coulsdon town centre economy. It is important that there is an adequate mix of short-term and long-term bays. The existing free parking after 6.00pm and all day on Sundays are very important to the economy of Coulsdon and must remain. We would also expect the new parking rules to be administered firmly and fairly.

Yours Faithfully

Charles King

Charles King Chair : East Coulsdon RA

Copy : Jason Peery Mayor, Cllr Scott, Roche, Coulsdon Town and Old Coulsdon Councillors and David Wakeling Croydon