



UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices, London Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4ER
Telephone (01799) 510510
Textphone Users 18001
Email uconnect@uttlesford.gov.uk Website www.uttlesford.gov.uk

14th March 2024

Your ref: N/A

Our ref: Uttlesford District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024.

Dear Sir/Madam

Uttlesford District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024.

Thank you for submitting your response to the consultation on the Uttlesford District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024.

All responses have been fully considered and as a result some significant changes to the proposals have been made.

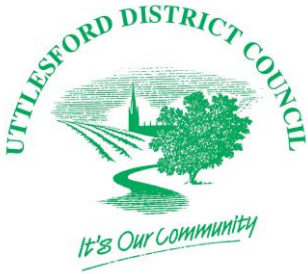
The amended proposals were debated by the cross-party Scrutiny Committee and approved by Cabinet. Subsequently the associated fees and charges were approved at full council as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25 and will come into effect on the 8th April 2024. The introduction of tariffs at Catons Lane and London Road car parks in Saffron Walden will be introduced at a later date.

The tariff levels were last increased in 2015 whilst the cost of operating car parks has increased each year due to inflation, thus increasing the pressure on the Council's finances. A corporate decision has been taken to reset tariffs to a more appropriate level having regard to the rising operating costs and inflation.

The extension of charging until 6pm and the inclusion of Sundays/Bank Holidays brings the district in line with many neighbouring authorities, and some authorities charge to later hours.

Councillors noted the strong feeling that the proposed increases to season tickets were too high and have made significant reductions to the proposed costs. This decision has been made in recognition of comments that lower paid town centre workers would be disadvantaged which would have a negative impact on local businesses. Season ticket prices have now been aligned across the district. The cost of a season ticket in Uttlesford still represents a significant discount, in excess of 60%, on the daily rate. A new range of season tickets have been introduced to reflect new working patterns and these will benefit hybrid and part time workers.

Members took on board consultation responses highlighting the need to retain the 30-minute tariff in Saffron Walden and as a result this will continue.



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Tariffs are to be introduced at Catons Lane and London Road car parks in Saffron Walden. Catons Lane will operate as a long stay car park with charges aligned with Swan Meadow. This car park is owned by Saffron Walden Town Council and managed by UDC who incur operating costs. This means that UDC are currently effectively subsidising the car park as they must pay rates and maintain and monitor the site.

Tariffs will also be introduced at London Road car park on weekends and bank holidays. Residents from specified house numbers on London Road will be eligible for a residents permit to also park at this location between 16:30pm and 08:00 on weekdays.

Members noted consultation responses, particularly those from local businesses and voluntary sector organisations in Stansted Mountfitchet, highlighting the need to retain season tickets for locally employed people in Crafton Green and as a result these will remain available.

Since the MiPermit app was introduced in our car parks we have absorbed the cost of the Convenience Fee on every transaction. The fee covers MiPermit's administration costs and is a fee for using their service, rather than the parking space. Due to the current financial situation and rising costs, this is no longer sustainable. Alternative payment methods, such as using a credit or debit card or via an automated telephone number, are available in all UDC managed car parks. Further information about the Convenience Fee, including when it applies, can be found online at <https://help.mipermit.com/en/articles/101/costs-of-pay-stay-parking-with-mipermit>.

If any person wishes to question the validity of the Order or any of its provisions on the grounds that it or they are not within the powers conferred by the Act, or that a requirement of the Act, or of any instrument made under the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order is made, apply for the purpose to the High Court.

Yours faithfully,

The Economic Development team

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