

Consultation about proposed parking charges in Winslow Public Hall car park

Winslow Town Council is considering proposals to introduce charges for the use of the Public Hall car park with effect from 1 April 2025.

From that date Buckinghamshire Council has given notice that it will be introducing charges for the use of its Greyhound Lane car park. The Town Council needs to ensure that the Public Hall car park remains available to those who currently rely on it – particularly the users of the Public Hall, Bowls Club, Royal British Legion Hall, Sports Club and the Tomkins Park & Arboretum, as well as those visiting the town centre for shopping and business purposes. It also recognises that the Public Hall car park is used by several residents of nearby properties who have no alternative off-street or even on-street parking options. So it is with regret that the Town Council has concluded that a charging regime similar to that in Greyhound Lane will be needed in the Public Hall car park.

Proposed charges

The table below shows the charges the Town Council is proposing for the Public Hall car park (alongside those already decided by Buckinghamshire Council for its Greyhound Lane car park). The proposals for the Public Hall car park already take account of criticisms of the Greyhound Lane tariff in terms of the times at which charges apply, the scale of charges on Sundays and the possibility of some concession for nearby residents who have no alternative parking spaces.

Duration (Mon-Sat)	Public Hall CP Between 8am and 6pm	Greyhound Lane CP between 7am and 7pm
up to 1hr	50p	50p
1-2 hrs	70p	70p
2-3 hrs	90p	90p
3-4 hrs	£1.20	£1.20
4-5 hrs	£1.70	£1.70
up to 24hrs	£2.70	£2.70
Sundays	As above, to max £1.70	£1.70
Overnight every day	Free 6pm – 8am	Free 7pm – 7am

It proposes that Blue Badge holders would be able to park free of charge in any marked bay for up to 3 hours; stays longer than 3hrs will need to pay the standard tariff.

Motorcycles would not incur a parking charge but will need to be parked in specified marked locations.

Rules for use of the car park will require that vehicles must be parked only within marked bays, and that bays marked for the disabled and for EV charging are reserved for those who need to use them. Parking Charge Notices (PCNs) would be issued for breaches of these rules as well as for parking without payment or overstaying a paid-for parking session; a penalty Charge of £50 is proposed with a reduction to £25 if paid within 14 days (matching Buckinghamshire Council's lower rate of Penalty

Charge). All administrative arrangements would be compliant with the most recent British Parking Association Codes for off-street parking places.

Possible resident's season tickets

The Town Council could offer a limited number of season tickets for those properties on the sections of the High Street (evens 30-122 and odds 61-115) which have no off-street parking space. Each eligible property would have the opportunity, on a first-come-first-served basis, to buy a season ticket valid for parking one specified vehicle in the Public Hall car park. An 'overnight' season ticket could be valid between 4pm and 9am on weekdays, and at any time on Saturdays and Sundays, and it might be priced at £200 per year (providing more than 60% discount on the standard tariff) or £55 for three months. Alternatively an 'any time' Resident's Season Ticket could be valid for parking at all times of day or night and this might be charged at £400 per year (a discount of more than 55%) or £105 for three months. Possession of a season ticket would not guarantee the availability of a parking space at all times, and a season ticket would only be valid for parking in the Public Hall car park. Residents who only need to park between 6pm and 8am would benefit from the free overnight parking period and would not need a season ticket.

It should be noted that Buckinghamshire Council has not indicated an intention to have any form of resident's season ticket for its Greyhound Lane car park, although overnight parking there between 7pm and 7am will be free.

Greyhound Lane and on-street parking

The Town Council has no control over the tariff for Greyhound Lane which is controlled by Buckinghamshire Council.

Likewise any changes to on-street parking restrictions in and around the town centre can only be made by Buckinghamshire Council. The Town Council is discussing the need for such additional restrictions with Buckinghamshire Council, and there may be a separate consultation about these.

Use of revenue from parking charges

The Town Council intends, at least in the first instance, to use any revenue which is in excess of the operational costs of the car park charging scheme to pay for the maintenance of the Public Hall car park.

Operation of car park charging

The Town Council has been advised that the most cost-effective mechanism for operating a charging scheme for the Public Hall car park will be to rely on a platform which allows for payment through both a phone app and a phone call (such as is available through RingGo), associated with the monitoring of Registration Numbers of vehicles entering and leaving the car park.

It is understood that the RingGo service will also be used by Buckinghamshire Council when it introduces charges in Greyhound Lane car park, and it is already used for Market Square (where, at least for now, there is also the option of paying at a ticket machine).

Consultation responses

If you have comments on these proposals which you wish the Town Council to consider please e-mail them to townclerk@winslowtowncouncil.gov.uk or deliver them in writing to The Town Clerk, Winslow Town Council, 28 High Street, Winslow MK18 3HF. **Closing date for responses is Sunday 5 January 2025.**