
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CAR PARKING CHARGES

Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor David Lyonette, Transport Portfolio

Responsible Director - Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To review car parking charging arrangements for Christmas and New Year holidays.

Summary

2. Cabinet approved free parking on Boxing Day and New Year's Day public holidays, to apply until further notice, in November 2006. This year Boxing Day falls on a Saturday and the Boxing Day Bank Holiday is therefore a Monday. The report recommends that the charge free days should be revised to be the 25 and 26 December and 1 January.
3. Cabinet has also previously approved free parking from 3.30 pm on each of the four Thursdays leading up to Christmas to promote local trade. This year the Christingle Market starts on Thursday 26 November 2009 and will not be taking place on the final Thursday before Christmas (Christmas Eve). The report recommends that car parking be free from 3.30 pm.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) 25, 26 December and 1 January be days on which no charges are levied for on and off street car parking.
 - (b) This year car parking be free in on and off street car parks from 3.30 pm on the Thursdays leading up to Christmas on which there are Christmas markets in the town centre.

Reasons

5. The recommendations are supported to clarify the charge free parking arrangements in Darlington.

**Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services**

Background Papers

Cabinet Minute C86(3)(a)November06

Bill Westland : Extension 2552
BAH

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues in relation to crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues in relation to health and well being.
Sustainability	There are no issues in relation to sustainability.
Diversity	There are no issues in relation to diversity.
Wards Affected	All Wards
Groups Affected	All Groups
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend any change to the Budget or Policy Framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	For the purposes of Scrutiny Review this report is an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Effective management and control of car parking facilities contributes to the benefits of the transport system.
Efficiency	Removing confusion around charge-free days improves the effectiveness of the car parking facilities.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. Car parking charges in Darlington on-street and off-street parking facilities generally apply Monday to Saturday, including Bank Holidays from 8.00 am – 6.00 pm. There are exceptions and these are the four Thursdays before Christmas, from 3.30 pm and the Christmas and New Year public holidays, where no charges apply. These exceptions were agreed by Cabinet in November 2006.
7. Christmas and New Year public holidays do not always fall on 25 and 26 December and 1 January. On those occasions they can cause confusion because charges normally apply on Bank Holidays.
8. The position can be made very clear if charges are suspended on the key Christmas and New Year dates of 25, 26 December and 1 January and normal charges apply on any other Bank Holidays occurring during this period.
9. In November 2006 Cabinet approved free parking from 3.30 pm on each of the four Thursdays leading up to Christmas to promote local trade. This year the Christingle Market starts on Thursday 26 November and will not be taking place on the final Thursday before Christmas (Christmas Eve). The report recommends that car parking be free from 3.30 pm on the Thursdays leading up to Christmas on which Christmas markets are held.

Outcome of Consultation

10. No consultation has been carried out in the preparation of this report.