

Appendix 5 - Formal Responses to Public Consultation

	Category
1	<p>Objects on the basis that the charges will have an impact on footfall and viability of businesses / the high street and / or tourism and / or the length of stay and / or value / amount of their spend.</p>
	<p>The proposals have sought to introduce a consistent 2hr, 4hr and 24hr charging option across the Council's Pay and Display Car park portfolio. This has resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increases of only 20p in most coastal locations, and £1.10 increase in Cardigan for 2hrs parking; • a 10p decrease in most coastal locations, and £1 in Cardigan for 4hrs parking (as opposed to 3hrs previously); • a 40p increase in most coastal locations, and £1.90 in Cardigan for 24hrs parking; • increases of between 10p and 60p in inland locations for 2hrs parking; • increases of between 0p and 40p in inland locations for 4hrs parking (as opposed to 3hrs previously); • a 10p decrease or no change in inland locations for 24hrs parking; <p>NB – all of the above changes are inclusive of the 50p supplement agreed by Cabinet in order to allow for free parking for Blue Badge holders in Ceredigion County Council car parks.</p> <p>There is already a significant amount of free on-street time limited parking of various durations as well as there being free on-street unrestricted parking available on a first come first served basis in all towns/villages served by car parks. On-street time limited parking is monitored and enforced to encourage turnover of these spaces to facilitate parking for shorts duration. Whilst on-street capacity may not meet the level of demand for free parking and the desire for free parking in car parks is recognised, charges for parking in car parks provides a mechanism for managing demand for parking and supports the overall delivery of Council Services. As the Council has to prepare a balanced budget, if all parking was free, it would require either Council Tax to be increased by around 4% or for services to be cut in order to achieve a balanced budget.</p>
2	<p>Objects on the basis that charges at Mwldan and / or Bath House car parks are too expensive and this will impact on Mwldan Theatre directly, their own personal attendance of the theatre or on others attending the theatre.</p>
	<p>Currently there are a series of fee tiers operating in Pay and Display car parks across Ceredigion which are not applicable at the Mwldan Car Park, and the proposed changes actually represent a reduction in fee payable for Mwldan patrons wanting to park for up to 4 hours to make use of the facility. Charges to park in Mwldan Car Park operate 8am-6pm and there is no intention under these proposals to extend the charging hours. On this basis there is already free parking provided at Mwldan Car Park. The Council would be prepared to enter into discussions with Mwldan Theatre if they wished to consider an arrangement whereby, they subsidise the cost of parking for their customers similar to the arrangement the Council has in relation to Market Street Car Park in Lampeter.</p>
3	<p>Objects generally on the basis that charges proposed were too high and / or that the minimum charge for 2 hours was too expensive.</p>
	<p>There is a requirement on the Council to prepare a balanced budget and the proposals set out form part of the preparation of a balanced budget. If the proposals set out are not taken forward, then it will necessitate either an additional increase in Council Tax or further reductions in service levels to achieve a balanced budget. The proposals allow for an increase of 60p or less in the majority of car parks, which includes a 50p supplement to allow for free parking for Blue Badge holders in Ceredigion County Council car parks.</p>
4	<p>Objects on the basis that they feel that a charge of maximum charge of £2 for 4 hours or, £2 for 3 hours, should be applied.</p>

	There is a requirement on the Council to prepare a balanced budget and the proposals set out form part of the preparation of a balanced budget. Setting the charges at £2 for 4 hours or £2 for 3 hours would result in a budget deficit of approximately £1m, which would necessitate either an additional increase in Council Tax of around 2%-3%, or further reductions in service levels to achieve a balanced budget.
5	Objects on the basis that parking in Carmarthenshire or Pembrokeshire or more generally that parking in other counties is cheaper than in Ceredigion.
	Whilst it is acknowledged that some parking fees in some neighbouring authorities are currently less than the proposals set out, this is not the case for all of them e.g. Gwynedd CC has a fee structure that includes charges up to £11 for 24-hour parking, and each Local Authority will set their own fees and charges in accordance with local considerations and budgetary/funding decisions. There is also no detail or confirmation in terms of the intentions of neighbouring Councils in respect of their fees and charges moving forward and this, aligned to the fact that under these proposals car park charges would remain unchanged until at least April 2027, mean that it is not possible to compare charges on a like for like basis. The proposals also include a 50p supplement to allow for free parking for Blue Badge holders in Ceredigion County Council car parks, which is not available in Carmarthenshire or Pembrokeshire.
6	Objects on the basis that there should be an option for 2 hours, 1 hour or 30-minute free parking in car parks.
	There is already free on-street time limited parking of various durations between 30 minutes and 2 hours on a first come first served basis, as well as there being free on-street unrestricted parking available on a first come first served basis. On-street time limited parking is monitored and enforced to encourage turnover of these spaces to facilitate parking for shorts duration. Whilst on-street capacity may not meet the level of demand for free parking and the desire for free parking in car parks is recognised, charges for parking in car parks provides a mechanism for managing demand for parking.
7	Objects to proposed charges on the basis that it will encourage people to park either illegally, in residential areas or specifically in Cardigan Health Centre Car Park to avoid the charges.
	The onus remains on the driver to park legally and appropriate in line with the parking restrictions in place. The Council monitors and enforces compliance with restrictions and it will continue to do so to help ensure that these practices are discouraged. The proposals include for reduced cost Season Tickets to encourage those who have regular and ongoing parking requirements to make use of car parks.
8	Objects on the basis that there should be a 3 hour parking option for Mwldan Car Park as 2 hours is not enough time to see a film and / or 2 simply that 2 hours is not enough time to attend a performance in Mwldan and shop in town.
	The proposals also include for a 4 hour and 24-hour tariff option at Mwldan Car Park for those who wish to park for longer than 2 hours. In addition, in the proposals, Greenfield Square Car Park which is 100m from the Mwldan Theatre will also provide a 3 hour tariff option for those who want more than 2 hours but less than 4 hours of parking.
9	Objects on the basis that all parking should be free.
	There is already free on-street time limited parking of various durations as well as there being free on-street unrestricted parking available on a first come first served basis. On-street time limited parking is monitored and enforced to encourage turnover of these spaces to facilitate parking for shorts duration. Whilst on-street capacity may not meet the level of demand for free parking and the desire for free parking in car parks is recognised, charges for parking in car parks provides a mechanism for managing demand for parking and supports the overall delivery of Council Services. As the Council has to prepare a balanced budget, if all parking was free, it would require either Council Tax to be increased by around 4% or for services to be cut in order to achieve a balanced budget.
10	Objects on the basis that they consider that charges of £7 per day are extortionate for people working or business owners in towns.

	<p>The proposals include options to purchase Season Tickets at a significantly reduced rates which equates to the cost of parking being as little as 81p per day (based on 7 days a week parking) or £1.14 per day (based on 5 day a week parking). The cost of a Season Ticket equates to cost to park of £5.65 a week and therefore anyone who wishes to work or visit a Car Park for over 4 hours on as little as a 1 day a week visit frequency and for up to 2 or 4 hours visits on as little as a 2 visits per week frequency, would see a cost saving by purchasing a Season Ticket. As the cost of Season Tickets in the proposals are reduced compared to current prices, worker and business owners taking up this option will in fact see parking cost reduced.</p>
11	<p>Objects on the basis that the charge for 4 hours at Mwldan Car Park will only see a saving of 10p on the current single option of 24 hours parking and that a stay of over 4 hours will cost £1.90 more than the current charge</p>
	<p>Currently there are a series of fee tiers operating in Pay and Display car parks across Ceredigion and whilst there will be two tiers under this proposal, it will rationalise the current fee structure and move closer to a model where charges for parking are more consistent and better aligned in terms of factors including location, attractors and demand for parking. Currently, the only option in Mwldan Car Park is £5.10 for 24 hrs (which would also likely be increased during the upcoming budget setting process). The proposals will provide more flexible options for parking, which is what has been requested from users.</p>
12	<p>On the basis that they considered that the Council is being 'greedy'.</p>
	<p>There is a requirement on the Council to prepare a balanced budget and the proposals set out form part of the preparation of a balanced budget. If the proposals set out are not taken forward, then it will necessitate either an additional increase in Council Tax or further reductions in service levels to achieve a balanced budget. The proposals also includes a 50p supplement to each tariff to allow for free parking for Blue Badge holders in Ceredigion County Council car parks.</p>
13	<p>Objects on the basis that parking should be free, or that lower fees should be applied in Mwldan Car Park, in the evening.</p>
	<p>Currently charges to park in Mwldan Car Park operate 8am-6pm and there is no intention under these proposals to extend the charging hours. On this basis there is already free parking provided at Mwldan Car Park. Currently some seasonal car parks charge between 8am and 10pm and under these proposals all car parks will charge from 8am-6pm which will provide enhanced free parking opportunities in the evening at car parks will see a reduction in the charging hours.</p>
14	<p>Objects on the basis that there should be a 30 minute or 1 hour charged for parking option.</p>
	<p>The proposals set out seek to rationalise the number of tariffs available at car parks to make them simpler as well as seeks to encourage people to dwell longer. There is already free on-street time limited parking of various durations between 30 minutes and 2 hours on a first come first served basis, as well as there being free on-street unrestricted parking available on a first come first served basis. On-street time limited parking is monitored and enforced to encourage turnover of these spaces to facilitate parking for shorts duration.</p>
15	<p>Objects to seasonal car parks in New Quay charging all year round due to impact on business during the off-peak season.</p>
	<p>There is already free on-street time limited parking of various durations within New Quay, as well as there being free on-street unrestricted parking available on a first come first served basis. On-street time limited parking is monitored and enforced to encourage turnover of these spaces to facilitate parking for shorts duration to the benefit of businesses. Whilst on-street capacity may not meet the level of demand for free parking and the desire for free parking in car parks is recognised, charges for parking in car parks provides a mechanism for managing demand for parking.</p>
16	<p>Objects to seasonal car parks in New Quay charging all year round due to impact on those attending the Doctor's surgery and / or pharmacy.</p>

	There is already free on-street time limited parking on a first come first served basis, as well as there being free on-street unrestricted parking available on a first come first served basis. On-street time limited parking is monitored and enforced to encourage turnover of these spaces to facilitate parking for short duration. In addition, the Council already provides 5 short term free parking spaces within Church Road Car Park for use by patients of the Doctors surgery in New Quay.
17	Objects to Pendre changing to a Short Stay Car Park on the basis that they want business owners to return to be able to have allocated / permit spaces to guarantee parking spaces for them to conduct business related activities and for convenience.
	It is considered that there is insufficient capacity within Pendre Car Park to accommodate both permit holder parking and short stay parking options, having only 23 available spaces, and therefore the decision is whether to retain Pendre as a permit only car park, or to introduce short stay parking options – season tickets could be purchased which would allow businesses owners to park in Mwdan, Bath House and Fairfield car parks at a cost of £295/annum as alternative options for parking in the vicinity of Pendre.
18	Objects on the basis that residents already pay Council Tax and that Council Tax payers should get free parking.
	Council Tax contributes to the delivery of the services provided by the Council and Car Parks are a discretionary provision. Any surplus income derived from Car Parking charges is used to balance the Council's overall budget and support delivery of Council services including but not limited to those related to Education, Social Care, Highways Maintenance, and Waste Collection. If all taxpayers were to receive free parking, and thereby reducing income from the car parks, then this would necessitate either an increase in the amount of Council Tax charged by around 4% or further cuts to the services provided by the Council. Whilst the desire for free parking is recognised, parking charges in car parks play a role in managing demand and turnover of available spaces. Without charges, there will likely be reduced turnover of spaces with some vehicles occupying spaces for extended periods and thereby limiting availability for others who wish to make use of the car parks creating an overall disbenefit in relation to footfall in towns.
19	Objects on the basis that the proposed Season Ticket charges are too high for those on low incomes and / or that the current admin fee and requirement to pay 3 months upfront is prohibitive.
	Under these proposals the cost of most season tickets will significantly reduce (by up to 49% in the case of the current county wide offering) with the cost of parking as little as 81p per day (based on 7 days a week parking) or £1.14 per day (based on 5 day a week parking). Over recent years a facility to pay by direct debit has been provided as an option for longer duration Season Tickets (9 and 12 months) to help spread the cost. The requirement to pay for 3 months upfront is to manage the risk associated with those defaulting on direct debit arrangements or those failing to complete the necessary direct debit mandates and, whilst it is acknowledged that this may be a barrier for some individuals, under these proposals the cost of most season tickets will significantly reduce which will consequently reduce the amount of the upfront payment that will need to be made to secure a season ticket on a direct debit arrangement. An administration fee of £10 is applied to application for season tickets to cover the additional administration related to payment by direct debit in accordance with the Cabinet decision in 2016 on implementing a direct debit payment option. Cabinet could decide to waive / remove the administration charge of £10 if they are minded to do so, as this fee sits outside of the Traffic Regulation Order process.
20	Objects to charging in New Quay Car Parks all year round on the basis that the car parks will be quite over the winter period and therefore the cost of monitoring and enforcing payment would outweigh the income received.
	The Council already monitors on-street restrictions in New Quay during the winter and therefore monitoring of the car park will simply be incorporated into these existing

	<p>monitoring activities. Even low patronage and therefore payment for parking between November and March would also reduce the requirement to increase charges during the Summer to cover the loss of income that could be generated.</p>
21	<p>Objects to any charges or season ticket requirements for Gloster Row / Red Lion Car Park on the basis that they feel that residents should have free parking in the car park either generally and / or due to tidal flooding effecting the highway outside their home and that cars are safer in the car park.</p>
	<p>Whilst it is accepted that flooding does occasionally affect Gloster Row / Red Lion car park and streets in the vicinity, this usually only occurs at extreme states of the tide. Property owners do not have a right to park on the public highway outside their properties, and it is the responsibility of the vehicle owner to ensure that they are aware of when such tides occur. It is recommended to the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Ceredigion County Council's Cabinet that the car park should remain as a short stay pay and display car park, at the fees noted for other car parks within Cardigan.</p>
22	<p>Objects to there being two bands of charges 'Coastal' and 'Inland' and feels that that there should be a single charge structure across all Pay and Display Car Parks.</p>
	<p>Currently there are a series of fee tiers operating in Pay and Display car parks across Ceredigion and whilst there will be two tiers under this proposal, it will rationalise the current fee structure and move closer to a model where charges for parking are more consistent and better aligned in terms of factors including location, attractors and demand for parking.</p>
23	<p>Objects on the basis that they feel that simplifying and rationalising charges across the County benefits the Council and not the user.</p>
	<p>The simplification of charges across the County is a benefit to users. It will provide benefits including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A simpler, easier to understand charging regime; b. It will make pay and display machines simpler to operate as there will be a maximum of 4 tariffs operating at the machine compared to up to 9 tariffs, some of which require additional buttons to be pressed to access; c. It will result in the same charge for parking for all types of vehicle permitted at each car park; d. Season Tickets will not only be cheaper in the majority of cases than they currently are but they will also allow parking at the majority of Long Stay Car Parks across the County rather than being car park specific which will provide greater value for money and flexibility; e. It will provide additional tariff options in some car parks which currently only provide an option to pay for 24 hours giving greater flexibility to users to choose how long they wish to purchase a ticket for; f. Changing the charging hours at seasonal car parks from 8am - 10pm to 8am - 6pm to align with other car parks will provide enhanced free parking opportunities in the evenings at this car parks and will also benefit residents who wish to make use of the car parks for overnight parking.
24	<p>Objects on the basis that the minimum charge on the Inland Band of £3 for 2 hours adversely affects those who need to use car parks in Llandysul for short visits.</p>
	<p>There is already free on-street time limited parking of various durations between 30 minutes and 2 hours on a first come first served basis, as well as there being free on-street unrestricted parking available on a first come first served basis. On-street time limited parking is monitored and enforced to encourage turnover of these spaces to facilitate parking for shorts duration. Whilst the proposed charge for the Inland band is higher than the current charges, under these proposals, fees and charges would remain static until at least April 2027. Currently fees and charges are increased annually and, on this basis, it is projected that if the current scale of fees and charges were maintained, that the overall cost of parking would likely exceed the currently proposed charges on most if not all tariff bands before April 2027 and therefore this model would likely result in</p>

	parking being cheaper in the longer term. For example, the charge for 24-hour parking will remain as it is currently at be £5 under the proposal and therefore would not see any increase until at least April 2027. The Council remains open to discussions should another organisation wisht to consider an arrangement for subsidising parking at the car park or them taking over management of the car park.
25	Objects to charges on the basis that the car park in Llandysul is convenient for taking children to the playground and to sports practice which are beneficial to their health and wellbeing and that they will penalise those with children in Llandysul that live away from the town centre.
	Whilst it is acknowledged that the car park is adjacent to these facilities and it provides for a convenient parking location it, there is free on-street time limited parking as well as there being free on-street unrestricted parking available on a first come first served basis available to people who wish to park to access these facilities who do not wisht to pay for parking. On-street time limited parking is monitored and enforced to encourage turnover of these spaces to facilitate parking for shorts duration. The Council remains open to discussions should another organisation wish to consider an arrangement for subsidising parking at the car park or them taking over management of the car park.
26	Objects on the basis that the income already generated is enough.
	There is a requirement on the Council to prepare a balanced budget and the proposals set out form part of the preparation of a balanced budget. If the proposals set out are not taken forward, then it will necessitate either an additional increase in Council Tax or further reductions in service levels to achieve a balanced budget.
27	Objects to the requirement for those using EV charges to pay for parking in addition to the cost of charging the vehicle as charging can be slow and it will discourage people from stopping to charge their vehicle.
	Charging facilities for EVs in car parks are an additional paid for facility managed and operated by a third party. The length of time a vehicle takes to charge will depend on various factors including the level of charge in the vehicle and the type of charger that the local supply can accommodate, and drivers of EV vehicles will make decision around where to charge their vehicle based on their own personal circumstances. Charging both for parking and charging is to create a sustainable model that allows for continued investment in expanding and improving the network of charging stations, ensuring that they remain operational and available, whilst maintaining income from parking related activities, this will become increasingly important as the number of EVs increases with the move towards net zero. This approach is also consistent with the approach taken by neighbouring councils.
28	Objects to charging at all in Llandysul on the basis that they feel that the Council has not studied the impact of reintroducing of charging for parking on businesses and the wider community.
	A temporary suspension of charges at Porth Terrace Car Park in Llandysul was in place during and immediately following COVID. Prior to the end of the suspension of the charges, opportunities were provided to the community to present evidence to support the continuation of the suspension and the position whereby Llandysul was afforded free parking where other location were not, however this was not forthcoming despite numerous reminders. The Council remains open to discussions with other organisations should they wish to consider managing the car park directly or if they wish to consider subsidising the cost of parking.
29	Objects on the basis that the charges in Cardigan are more expensive than Aberystwyth and Aberaeron.
	This objection is factually incorrect. Under the proposals, charges at car parks in Cardigan, Aberaeron, Aberystwyth and New Quay will be the same as they will all fall under the Coastal band.

30	Objects on the basis that paying anything more than £3 to pay to take their mother who has a blue badge to attend Theatre Mwldan would impact on their attendance and therefore her mother's mental health.
	Under the proposals, a vehicle transporting a Blue Badge holder and displaying the Blue Badge would be exempt from the charges and therefore in this scenario there would be no cost to this individual for parking in Mwldan Car Park.
31	On the basis that tickets to Theatr Mwldan should include parking for free and / or should entitle people to discounted parking.
	It is not considered appropriate or fair for the taxpayer to subsidise parking for customers of one particular private business or facility. The Council would be prepared to enter into discussions with Mwldan Theatre if they wished to consider an arrangement whereby, they subsidise the cost of parking for their customers similar to the arrangement the Council has in relation to Market Street Car Park in Lampeter.
32	Object on the basis that the charges will affect the ability of homeowners without private parking to sell their properties.
	Access to parking would be only one of several considerations for potential buyers including but not limited to the price of the property, its location, size, proximity to facilities, whether it has outside space and the type and quality of education provision afforded. The proposals include the option for the purchase of Season Tickets at a cost of £295 for 12 months which equates to a cost of parking of as little as 81p per day which is considered to be reasonable, and this would be open to any prospective homebuyers.
33	Objects to charging all year round at seasonal car parks on the basis that they have very little use between November and March.
	It is unclear as to the basis for this objection, because even low patronage and therefore payment for parking between November and March would reduce the requirement to increase charges during the Summer to cover the loss of income that could be generated.
34	Objects to charging in New Quay Car Parks all year round on the basis that it will impact on New Quay Fireworks event and other community events.
	The proposed charging period of 8am-6pm will continue to provide free parking in the car park during evening events like New Quay Fireworks. More generally it is considered that the proposed reduction to the charging hours from 8am-10pm to 8am-6pm will provide additional support throughout the year to any evening events taking place and support the night-time economy.
35	Objects to changing the period of charging at New Quay Car Parks from 8am – 10pm to 8am – 6pm on the basis that there will be a higher risk of overnight camping.
	The majority of the Council's Car Parks already operate a charging period of 8am-6pm and it is not considered that this results in a higher risk or incidence of overnight camping than at those seasonal car parks operating an 8am-10pm charging period. Indeed, the car park where there has been the most challenge related to overnight camping has been at a car park where charges currently apply until 10pm. Car parks will continue to be monitored for incidents of overnight camping irrespective of their charging hours and where appropriate action will be taken.
36	Objects on the basis that charging at Church Road Car Park New Quay will displace vehicles during the winter period on to Church Road.
	Currently there is all year-round unrestricted parking on sections of Church Road. If there is a concern related to parking on Church Road being unsuitable then there will need to be consideration given to restricting parking at this location all year round. This is on the basis that any road safety concerns related to vehicles parking at this location from November to February would be exacerbated in the peak summer periods when traffic volumes are significantly higher.
37	Objects to Pendre changing to a Short Stay Car Park on the basis that they want the car park to offer both short stay and Permit holder parking to guarantee parking spaces for them to conduct business related activities and for convenience as well as provide some short stay parking.

	It is considered that there is insufficient capacity with Pendre Car Park to accommodate both permit holder parking and short stay parking options, having only 23 available spaces, and therefore the decision is whether to retain Pendre as a permit only car park, or to introduce short stay parking options – season tickets could be purchased which would allow businesses owners to park in Mwldan, Bath House and Fairfield car parks at a cost of £295/annum as alternative options for parking in the vicinity of Pendre.
38	Objects to extending Maesyrafon Car Park as it would have a detrimental impact on Aberystwyth Farmers' Market
	Officers are seeking to identify a town centre location that would be more appropriate and support footfall both to the Market and to the town in general. If it is not possible to identify a suitable town centre location, then further discussions will take place to identify a suitable arrangement either at Maesyrafon Car Park or at a nearby car park.
39	Objects to Gloster Row / Red Lion Car Park changing to a Season Ticket only car park on the basis of the impact on customers of and consequently on the Red Lion Inn.
	It is accepted that limited on-street parking and/or off-street parking is available within the vicinity, and it is therefore recommended to the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Ceredigion County Council's Cabinet that the car park should remain as a short stay pay and display car park, at the fees noted for other car parks within Cardigan. Season tickets can be purchased by residents wishing to make use of the car park on an annual basis.
40	Objects to Gloster Row / Red Lion as a Season Ticket only car park on the basis that it floods and that it risks damage to vehicles
	Whilst it is accepted that flooding does occasionally affect Gloster Row / Red Lion car park, this usually only occurs at extreme states of the tide. It is the responsibility of the vehicle owner to ensure that they are aware of when such tides occur. It is recommended to the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Ceredigion County Council's Cabinet that the car park should remain as a short stay pay and display car park, at the fees noted for other car parks within Cardigan.
41	Objects on the basis that being in receipt of a Blue Badge does not mean that Blue Badge holders are unable to pay.
	It is accepted that being in receipt of a Blue Badge does not mean that Blue Badge holders are unable to pay however, it is recognised that those eligible for a Blue Badge can face additional challenges in accessing facilities and services. This amendment to the original proposals was made at the request of both the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and supported by Ceredigion County Council's Cabinet.