
Date:
24 January 2025

Sarah Groom
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By email: office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk

Dear Sarah

Village Parking- Stakeholder Engagement

Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) is continuously working to enhance parking services across the district.

As part of this work, and in line with its Parking Strategy, the Council is currently reviewing existing arrangements in the car parks it operates in the villages of Cuckfield, Lindfield, Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint.

To achieve the best possible outcomes from this work, the Council has partnered with industry experts Parking Matters Ltd (PML) to integrate national best practice, data, and experience into the review, with the aim of designing management regimes that cater to the unique needs of each car park and the communities they serve.

To help us develop our plans, we would like to ask you for your thoughts about parking in your area. This can be in the form of a written response, or if you prefer, an online meeting (via Zoom or Teams).

Background

We already know that the car parks in our villages have to support a range of different users; grab and go shoppers, drivers who want to do a longer shop, or stop for lunch, or a have hair appointment; visitors from outside the villages, people dropping children off for school, residents who use the carparks because there may not be enough space on their road or they may not have their own allocated parking, commuters, and people who work in the villages.

Car parks cost money to maintain and if they are not properly managed, they can result in frustration, with drivers struggling to find a space.

A range of different management regimes are being considered in the MSDC-operated car parks in the villages. At this stage, we are looking at a number of options including:

- Changing length of stay limits.

Working together for a better Mid Sussex

- Changing the number of long/short stay bays where they exist
- Changes to parking disc schemes
- Introducing charging to manage demand and increase turnover.
- Considering the number of permits on sites and the location of bays where they exist.

In Hurstpierpoint, among the identified issues with parking in the village are that a narrow high street and narrow residential roads mean that there are limited places to park.

Two car parks, Trinity Rd and Brown Twins are provided by MSDC for the village. Both sites reach over 80% capacity at points, although use seems to have reduced slightly since Covid-19.

Trinity Road has a mix of long and short-stay bays, with long-stay sections fully occupied from early in the morning. Observations confirmed that the short stay section was heavily used as drop-off and pick-up for the school opposite and used by commuters to nearby employers such as the school and the library. What considerations do you think will be needed if changes are made to car park such as the balance of long/short stay, charging levels and permits availability?

Brown Twins usage surveys show longer stays and overnight stays but with strong demand. Any changes in Trinity Rd would probably need to be mirrored in Brown Twins to protect availability. Do you have any views on what permits, or free period lengths might be appropriate in either car park, including for residents parking overnight?

More generally, we would appreciate your feedback on the following subjects, posed as questions below:

1. **Parking Challenges:** What difficulties do you and your residents, service users, staff, and visitors face when trying to park?
 - a. Is it difficult to find a parking space when needed?
 - b. Are the current restrictions too limiting (e.g., are maximum stay times too short)?
 - c. Are there specific issues for commuters, shoppers, residents, and local employees?
2. **Parking Discs:** Parking discs are hard to find, difficult for the District Council to enforce and manage, and costly to produce. This can discourage people from visiting the villages. What are your thoughts on these potential alternative solutions to achieve the same objectives:
 - a. Implementing "online" disc parking using the Council's current pay-by-mobile operator.
 - b. Installing terminals that issue free tickets stating the time limit.
 - c. Introducing pre-registration online for frequent users and others.
3. **Stricter Time Restrictions or Charges:** If stricter time restrictions or charges were introduced, what measures do you think would be needed to lessen the impact:
 - a. On different types of users, such as commuters, your employees, regular visitors, residents who use the car parks, shoppers, service users, and specific staff (e.g., teachers, doctors, administrators).
 - b. By offering specific products, such as free or discounted permits or overnight permits which allow a few hours either side for residents.
4. **Residents' Use of Car Parks:** Do you have any information or opinions on residents and their use of village or local car parks? For example:
 - a. Do many houses lack off-street parking?
 - b. Is there a concern that residents' use of car parks limits availability for other users during the day?

5. **Improving Car Park Efficiency:** Do you have any ideas on how to make the car parks more efficient and help more people find parking when they need it? For example:

- a. Removing special permit-only spaces.
- b. Adjusting the balance between long-stay and short-stay parking bays.
- c. Introducing reasonable charges to manage demand and encourage turnover.

We appreciate your time and thank you in advance for your help. Please send written responses to parkinginfo@midsussex.gov.uk by midday on Friday 21 February 2025.

If you would like to request an online meeting with your organisation or have any questions, please contact Ben Robinson at ben@parkingmatters.com, who will be happy to arrange a convenient time for a discussion.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob Anderton
Assistant Director- Commercial Services and Contracts