

Why are car parking charges being reintroduced?

Parking charges were originally suspended to help support key workers during what was the most intense period of the lockdown, which has now passed.

The decision to introduce temporary free parking for keyworkers was taken locally and was in addition to the support offered by other local authorities across the country.

Why can't charges be delayed until July, after businesses have re-opened?

Although 15th June will see non-essential retail start to reopen in Newbury Town Centre, 4th July is the date the hospitality industry can start to reopen, although for some this date is likely to be August at the earliest. Delaying the re-introduction could be seen to be unfairly penalising or benefiting some businesses over others.

Why can't a temporary suspension be agreed while the town centre businesses recover?

Waiting for the town centre to re-establish could take a considerable amount of time. We rely on income from our car parks in order to fund vital services, including those for our vulnerable residents, and so we are unable to indefinitely forfeit this income, particularly when free of charge and low cost parking methods are still available either within the town centre or within close walking distance.

Is free parking available to keyworkers?

The reintroduction of charging will apply to all of those who use our pay and display and pay on foot car parks from 1st June unless

Can I still park in the town centre for free?

Yes, there are a number of spaces in our town centres where parking is free for 30 minutes to allow for short trips into town centre shops. These can be found here: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=37158&p=0>

Three hours' free car parking is available at Northcroft Car Park, which is around 5-10 minutes' walk from Northbrook St: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/29716>

Parking at Faraday Road is also available for £1 for up to four hours and £2 for over four hours: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/29706>

Are there any other options for those using West Berkshire Council car parks regularly?

For those who use the car parks daily, it may be worth considering purchasing a season ticket, which will provide better value for money than paying each day. Details of this can be found here: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/29844>

Can I pay using contactless payment?

PaybyPhone is available in all our car parks and a contactless option in selected car parks – please see website. We would urge visitors to our car parks to use PaybyPhone to avoid contact with pay machines and the Council has temporarily suspended the 5p service charge that paying by phone would normally attract.

What is the council doing to make Newbury town centre safer?

We have taken the decision to temporarily pedestrianise parts of Newbury Town Centre to make the area safer for vulnerable road users (i.e. walkers and cyclists) as well as those who are queuing outside of shops in line with social distancing guidance. More information can be found here:

<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=37248>

Are there other ways of accessing town centres if I am unable to use my car or public transport?

Central Government has asked us to encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport. We are therefore keen to make it easier for those using bikes and scooters to use the town centre.

In recent years, we have invested significantly in cycling infrastructure, including improvements to the A4 as part of National Cycle Network Route 4 which runs from London to Bristol and into Wales. Details of available cycle routes can be found here:

<https://info.westberks.gov.uk/walkingandcycling>

In the next few weeks, we are likely to receive additional funding from Central Government the infrastructure available for walking, scooting and cycling.

Where can I park a motorcycle?

There are motorcycle parking bays at the Kennet Centre, the Wharf and Corn Exchange car parks and at Newbury Football Club.

Kennet Centre: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/29707>

Newbury Wharf: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/29720>

Newbury Corn Exchange: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/29701>

Newbury Football Club: <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/29706>