

TRAFFIC ORDER 2017 REPRESENTATIONS

<u>Report of the:</u>	Head of Customer Services & Business Support
<u>Contact:</u>	Richard Chevalier, Joy Stevens
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	Annexe 1 – Copy of the Traffic order based on car park tariffs agreed by Environment Committee on 25 October 2016
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	None stated

REPORT SUMMARY

This report asks the Committee to consider any representations received in relation to fees and charges for the car parking charges in Epsom & Ewell and to decide to either to continue, modify, or overturn the relevant Order.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

That the Committee considers any representations to the making of the Traffic Order to vary car parking charges, and to decide either to continue, modify, or overturn the relevant Order.

Notes

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 In considering parking fees and parking charges in this report the Committee will need to consider and balance the effective management of parking spaces and of the economic impact on the Borough.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the Environment Committee meeting on 25 October 2016 the Committee discussed fees and charges for Council-owned car parks in Epsom & Ewell and agreed in principle the proposed fees for 2017/18.
- 2.2 As a result, the making of the new Order was advertised on 24 November 2016. The order stated that any representations should be received by the Council by 19 December at 4:00pm.

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- 2.3 If no objections were received the order would be treated as confirmed. However, as objections were received, these need to be considered by the Committee.
- 2.4 A table of the objections/representations are outlined below. All of these were received and forwarded by the Bourne Hall Manager on behalf of the objectors.

Name	Objection/Representation
Pat Armitage	I think this is grossly unfair, Bourne Hall is well used and I feel the introduction of parking charges will not encourage people to attend. Just another way to get money out of people.
Mrs E A Azar	<p>I have just been notified that the Council plan to start charging for car parking on Friday evenings at Bourne Hall. I think this is outrageous as most car-parks are free in the evenings and I would ask that you reconsider as I can imagine our bi-monthly dance will close as most people would object to paying to park on top of the entrance fee.</p> <p>I presume you would also expect the blood donors to pay as well, and they are there on a Friday evening and they too, no doubt, would stop donating blood if they had to pay to park. Something for the Council to think about!</p> <p>I look forward to hearing from you that you will not be charging to park at Bourne hall on Friday evenings.</p>
Benita Law	I have heard that there are proposals to introduce evening parking charges at Bourne Hall. While I can understand the charges during the day. I think evening charges are quite unnecessary. All the other car parks are free after 6.30. We attend Bourne Hall twice monthly to dance but I fear some people may find these charges too much for them so spoiling their social outing. Please re-consider these charges for the sake of these people.
Lynda Bellinger	It's been brought to my attention that evening parking charges are to be considered for Bourne Hall I would like you to reconsider this action as many people attend various activities in the evening and choose to do so because of the free parking. This will have a adverse reaction on the people who run these events, especially where the elderly and those on low income attend, this extra cost could be just enough to stop them participating all together and once numbers fall the event may need to close which in the end will be less income to Bourne Hall.

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Name	Objection/Representation
Mrs V Allison	<p>Dear Sirs,</p> <p>I understand that evening parking charges are to be introduced at Bourne Hall in the New Year.</p> <p>If this happens it will surely discourage many people from attending the twice monthly ballroom dances in the hall downstairs. This is a perfect location for local people to get together and socialise in safe and pleasant surroundings and the fact that the evening parking has always been free means that the evening dances are always well attended. If, after many years you decide to charge people to park a car, it will possibly be the beginning of the end for social dancing.</p> <p>I believe there are other functions held on some evenings throughout the year and am sure attendance will be reduced for the same reason.</p> <p>However, If parking charges are to be introduced I would be interested to know how you propose to enforce this. Please be aware that I strongly object to the way that the Council are trying to fleece the public. Evening parking charges at Bourne Hall would be just another rip-off by the local authority.</p>
Ann Emery	<p>I would like to express my concern at the proposed charges for parking to this popular venue. I believe this would have a very negative affect and with costs increasing in all areas, would deter people from visiting the venue.</p>
Shirley Keene	<p>As a regular dancer at Bourne Hall on Friday evenings, we have always had the convenience of free parking. I object to this new proposal to impose parking charges in the evening – if we ladies arrive on a wet evening and have to find the change for parking, then go back to our cars to display the ticket, we will end up getting wet and spend an uncomfortable evening in wet clothes, especially for ladies wearing long dresses. We do not all have partners to drive us there.</p> <p>I urge you to drop this new money-making venture and continue to have free parking.</p>
Den Flavell	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I understand that you might be the contact with regard to the proposed changes to car park charges in the Ewell area?</p> <p>Having seen recent notices being posted about these charge proposals I researched the WEB and came across details from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's environment committee meeting of Tuesday, October 25 where a majority of councillors apparently voted to raise 24 of the council's 103 car park tariffs. Having studied the notes of this meeting in Para 6 for Ewell Car Parks the following is stated:</p> <p>Para 6.5 The Parking Working Group has made the following proposals: 6.5.1 An evening/overnight rate of 40p is introduced in the Ewell car parks running from 18:30 Monday to Saturday to 7 am the following morning. I would like to raise a formal objection to this as being a totally</p>

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	<p>unreasonable proposal and, without any doubt at all, this should not be implemented. The daytime car park charges are already too high in the area and the concept of an evening charge is an unjustified imposition as part of an attempt to be made by the Council in a penny pinching campaign.</p> <p>Evening parking should be free of charge exactly as it is with all the street parking that is available in the area. As a regular evening user of Bourne Hall I would like to point out that the availability of the free car park adjacent to the hall actually encourages the use of the council's facilities there and the imposition of a charge would most certainly discourage this. The same, of course, also applies in the Ewell High Street area where free car park use in the evening encourages people to come to the village to use the pubs and restaurants there. The concept of a evening car park charge will simply mean that customers will go elsewhere to locations where is it free to park!</p> <p>I would be grateful if you would take this email as a formal complaint against this proposal and to be acted upon accordingly.</p>
Josephine Morgan	<p>We are council tax payers to Epsom and Ewell borough council we feel it is unfair to charge car parking fees in the evening as to Bourne Hall this is going to stop people going there as it just another charge that will stop the older generation from attending the ballroom Dancing there every two weeks on a Friday night you will also find that the function rooms will be hit as well people just cannot afford it it is expensive enough in the day when people need to go to the clinics and functions</p>
Susan Lancaster	<p>I must say I strongly contest the proposal of car park charges at Bourne Hall. I am sure the council are able to claim more money from motorists that park illegally outside the Odeon Cinema Epsom and also other areas where parking is limited to only a short time and vehicles are left there several hours!!!! This venue is used regularly for the enjoyment of dances and other functions and feel it is another money making exercise at the wrong location.</p>
Ruth Jemmett	<p>I must say I strongly contest the proposal of car park charges at Bourne Hall. I am sure the council are able to claim more money from motorists that park illegally outside the Odeon Cinema Epsom and also other areas where parking is limited to only a short time and vehicles are left there several hours!!!! This venue is used regularly for the enjoyment of dances and other functions and feel it is another money making exercise at the wrong location.</p>
Thelma Harris	<p>I wish to complain about the proposed parking charges at Bourne Hall, this is our once month dancing outing, as pensioners getting zero interest on any savings we may have, it will be too expensive to come if we have to pay parking charges, £8 in get in and drinks is more than enough, I think night parking should be free, surely you make enough on day time parking and best of all parking fines, will not be able to do the best exercise ever dancing, love of my life, please reconsider</p>
Roger Belcher	<p>We have been advised that there is an intension to place a proposal before council members to impose evening parking charges at Bourne Hall.</p>

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	<p>I wish to lodge my objection to this or any similar proposal. As rate payers to Epsom & Ewell Borough Council we make regular use of this wonderful facility. Having introduced daytime charging for car parking is bad enough, but proposing charging for evenings is wholly unacceptable. We already do our bit for environment and our own economy by car sharing which is particularly important to us as we are pensioners.</p> <p>Please dismiss the proposal to charge for evening parking at Bourne Hall!</p> <p>Thank you in anticipation of you kind assistance with this matter.</p>
Christie Ellis	<p>I have heard that there are proposals being put forward to charge for parking at Bourne Hall in the evening. This seems very wrong as it will deter people from using Bourne Hall for dancing or from eating out in Ewell. Cars will be pushed onto side streets which will impact on local residents. Another concern is once charging is implemented it will end up like Kingston where they gradually increase charges until it becomes unreasonable. In a time of financial constraints for the ordinary resident, money is tight enough without all the extra burdens.</p>
Pamela Watson	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>It has been brought to my notice that parking charges are going to be made in the evening for parking at Bourne Hall.</p> <p>I am a regular attender at BH and strongly object to these proposed changes and charges.</p>
Patrick Tynan	<p>I strongly object to evening parking charges at Bourne Hall</p>
Isolde Ebrahim	<p>I am part of a dance group who enjoys dancing at Bourne Hall very much but I do disagree with the parking fees the government wants to bring in.</p> <p>Therefore, can you kindly add me to the list if there is a petition.</p>
Norma Grummitt	<p>I write re. the above proposed plan, to impose parking charges at Bourne Hall, in the evening</p> <p>I have attended tea dances at Bourne Hall for many years and accept the car park charges, during the day.</p> <p>It keeps a constant flow of traffic and is clearly a lucrative asset to the council.</p> <p>Indeed the traffic wardens are very attentive and have even given me a parking ticket for being 5 Minutes over my ticket time!!!</p> <p>Therefore I now restrict the time I use the car park.</p> <p>However I question the plan for car parking charges in the evening,</p> <p>On the occasions I have attended evening activities, the car park is rarely more than half full.</p> <p>The charge will certainly impact on the activities that are run at Bourne Hall, during the evenings and may cause some activities to close, as the public already have to pay to attend most of these activities.</p> <p>I have attended Glitters dances on Friday evenings and am aware this would be a cause for concern to the management of the dances.</p> <p>I understand the council want to use the parking facility to increase</p>

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	<p>their revenue, but surely by installing parking charges, it is not going to bring in a high revenue, but will impact on the usage of the venue.</p> <p>I would also be interested to know how the car park would be policed in the evening.</p> <p>Will traffic wardens be provided to check the tickets or will the police be required to check the facility?</p> <p>Either way it appears to be a costly waste of the tax payer's money.</p> <p>Surely it would be beneficial to increase growth and usage of Bourne Hall, rather than impose a charge on the few that use it in the evening.</p>
Clive McCarthy	<p>I understand that you are concerned with accepting the proposals from a Working Party on setting car parking charges in the borough. I will be disappointed at having an overnight charge of 40p introduced for the Ewell Car Parks, in particular at Bourne Hall which I attend weekly in the evening. I appreciate though that it would be difficult to except Bourne Hall, but have a charge for the neighbouring car parks. In early 2015 I used to pay 50p for the overnight charge in the rear Epsom Town Hall Car Park. Now I see it is £2.50. How long would it stay at 40p for Ewell. Please reconsider not imposing this charge. Thank you.</p>
Mr J Barnes	<p>I believe it will harm events that take place at Bourne Hall also restaurants in village. People will seek to park in roads elsewhere which are already crowded.</p>

2.5 The following objection was received after the specified time of 4:00 pm on 19 December 2016.

Peter Culver	<p>I am writing to object to car park changes in the evenings at Bourne Hall. Already congested residential roads will become worse as people look to park without cost and struggling local businesses will once again suffer a drop in trade as some customers will go elsewhere. Also, I wonder if your proposals are economic taking account of collection and enforcement costs and associated admin costs. Please rethink!</p>
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3 Proposals

3.1 The Committee is requested to consider the objections/representations and to decide whether it wishes to implement the changes to parking fees as previously agreed in principle.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

4.1 Fees and charges represent a large component of the Council's overall income budget strategy contained within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Efficiency Plan.

4.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** *The Strategy and Resources Committee agreed on the 27 September 2016 that at least £200,000 should be generated from an increase in all discretionary fees and charges across the Council, based on a minimum overall increase in yield of 3% in 2017/18. This income generation target is a key element of the Council's strategy to fund the 2017/18 budget.*

5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

5.1 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** *Consideration of objections/representations is an important part of the statutory process by which Orders are made. Members should consider all relevant factors before deciding whether the proposed Order requires modification; these include the financial consideration and the potential impact on traffic/parking in the area. The statutory process must be followed in order to bring changes to current fees & charges into effect.*

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

6.1 None for the purposes of this report.

7 Partnerships

7.1 None for the purposes of this report.

8 Risk Assessment

8.1 There is a risk that if the new charge is not introduced, that the overall budget target for income may not be achieved.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

9.1 That the Committee considers the objections/representations received to the making of a Traffic Order for raising the charges in car parks in Epsom and Ewell, replacing with one Order for the parking places in Epsom & Ewell and determines whether or not to overrule the Order, modify the Order or confirm the making of the Order.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All