

PETITION REQUESTING PARKING PROVISIONS IN RUISLIP MAIN CAR PARK & WILLOW LAWN CAR PARK

Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Residents' Services
Officer Contact(s)	Richard Webb, Place Directorate
Papers with report	None

HEADLINES

Summary	<p>To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been submitted by the residents of the Ruislip RL2 zone. The petition requests the implementation of free parking after 6pm in both the Ruislip Lido Main Car Park and Willow Lawn Car Park.</p> <p>The residents have raised concerns about the increasing number of vehicles parking on surrounding roads after 7pm, which coincides with the end of the current Parking Management Scheme restriction on parking in residential roads near the Lido. They believe that allowing free parking in the designated car parks after 6pm will alleviate this issue and improve the overall parking situation in the area.</p>
<p>Putting our Residents First</p> <p>Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026</p>	<p>This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: Be / feel safe from harm</p> <p>This report supports our commitments to residents of: Safe and Strong Communities</p>
Financial Cost	Should a trial period of free evening parking be progressed, there would be a loss of income estimated at up to c.£13k, to be managed within Parking Services revenue budgets.
Relevant Select Committee	Residents' Services Select Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	Ruislip

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Residents' Services:

- 1. Meets with petitioners and listens to their request to introduce provisions for free parking in Ruislip Lido Main Car Park and Willow Lawn Car Park after 6pm.**
- 2. If revisions to the charging periods for the Lido car parks are considered appropriate, considers a trial period of 3 to 6 months of free parking after either 6pm or 7pm. This will allow for data collection and evaluation of the benefits and any potential issues arising.**

Reasons for recommendations

The Petition Hearing will provide a valuable opportunity to hear directly from the petitioners regarding their concerns and suggestions. A trial period for any changes would allow for evaluation of the potential benefits against revenue implications for the Council.

Alternative options considered / risk management

Alternative options which would deter parking in residential streets in the evenings include extending the hours of the current Parking Management Scheme. However, this option is not supported by the petitioners.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

Democratic compliance / previous authority

Not applicable.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. A petition with what appears to be 31 signatories has been submitted to the Council in relation to parking provisions in Ruislip Lido Main Car Park and Willow Lawn Car Park. The desired outcome of the petition is stated as:

“Change parking times in both Main Lido and Willow Lawn car parks to ‘free parking after 6pm’ to encourage Lido visitors to use car parks provided instead of using the limited spaces available in the RL2 zone”.

2. In addition, accompanying the petition, was a request to note residents' comments that:

“Lido visitors are now parking in the RL2 zone to avoid charges at the Lido car parks. This results in no parking spaces for the residents of RL2.”

3. Charging hours for the Lido Main Car Park and Willow Lawn Car Park vary by month to reflect demand. They are currently as follows:

Months	Charging Period
January, February, November and December	0800 to 1800
March, September and October	0800 to 2000
April to August	0800 to 2100

4. The Council currently uses a dynamic pricing model under which parking rates vary based on demand. The current charges are as follows:

Ruislip Main Car Park - Lido

Charges from 15 April 2024		
Charges	Hillingdon First Card	Non-Card Holders
High Season: May - Aug (Up to 3 Hours)	£0.00	£8.50
High Season: May - Aug (Over 3 Hours)	£5.50	£15.50
Low Season: Sep - April (Up to 3 Hours)	£0.00	£5.50
Low Season: Sep - April (Over 3 Hours)	£3.00	£7.50

Willow Lawn Car Park

Charges from 15 April 2024		
Charges	Hillingdon First Card	Non-Card Holders
High Season: May - Aug (Up to 3 Hours)	£0.00	£8.50
High Season: May - Aug (Over 3 Hours)	£5.50	£15.50
Low Season: Sep - April (Up to 3 Hours)	£0.00	£5.50
Low Season: Sep - April (Over 3 Hours)	£3.00	£7.50

5. Revenue from the car parks helps to offset costs associated with maintaining the car parks and for parking enforcement to monitor parking restrictions in the area. Reducing charging periods for Council car parks will impact on the income available to the Council for these purposes.
6. When considering the request from local residents, it is important to understand and take into account the loss of revenue if parking is made free after 6pm. Analysis of receipts for the Lido Main Car Park and Willow Lane Car Park for the evening charging periods (1800 to 2000 or 2100) between April 2023 and March 2024 shows total income to be c.£13k for that financial year. Income for the same time periods for the 2024/25 financial year is projected to be similar. Therefore, providing free parking after 6pm in these car parks will result in an annual loss of income at this level.

7. It should be noted that approximately 63% of the parking receipts for parking after 6pm in these car parks is paid for in the period between 6 and 7pm.
8. If charging periods were changed for these car parks, the Council would incur some costs to change signage, though these would be minimal.
9. As an alternative, the Council could review the benefits of extending the hours of the current Parking Management Scheme to cover the evening period. This could help manage parking more effectively, reduce congestion on surrounding roads and ensure that local residents have priority access to parking spaces during peak times. But, to achieve these outcomes it would be necessary to extend the parking enforcement provision in the area to cover the extended time period of the restrictions. This would have cost implications for the Council. Given that there are continued parking contraventions in the area near the Lido during the current hours that the parking management scheme operates, it is unlikely that extending the hours of that scheme would be effective in deterring unauthorised parking.
10. The Council is currently analysing the outcomes of a trial of ANPR equipped parking enforcement cars which might provide an effective option for monitoring compliance in parking management schemes going forward, but the outcomes of the trial are not yet known.
11. Further alternative options would be to offer free parking after 7pm or to offer discounted parking rates after 6pm rather than free parking. Changing the charging period so that parking is free after 7pm would align the charging period with the local on-street parking restrictions. Offering a discounted rate in the evening could help manage demand while still providing an incentive for evening visitors. If this option was preferred, it is recommended that a trial be conducted to ensure that it was effective in reducing parking in residential streets.

Financial Implications

Subject to the outcome of discussions with petitioners, the Cabinet Member may agree to a trial period of 3 to 6 months (to take place during the Summer 2025 season) of free parking after either 6pm or 7pm, whilst the impact on the issues raised is assessed (and prior to any decisions regarding permanent changes being considered). This would affect income levels. It is noted that currently, c.£13k of income is generated annually via parking after 6pm at the Lido Main Car Park and Willow Lawn Car Park. There are also small costs associated with changing signage at the Car Parks and parking payment systems. Potential income pressures and additional costs will require review as part of the monthly budget monitoring cycle.

If permanent changes are subsequently agreed, any budgetary realignment within the parking service would be addressed via the fees & charges review as part of the 2026/27 MTFP planning process.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities

The recommendations will allow the Cabinet Member to consider the petitioners' requests and to decide on the preferred response.

Consultation carried out or required

No consultation has been carried out.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed the recommendations to this report and concurs with the financial implications as set out above.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that there are no specific legal considerations arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

TITLE OF ANY APPENDICES

None.