

Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	27 November 2024
Title of Report	The District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024. This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan.
Lead Member	Cllr. Les Phillimore - Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services
Report Author	Environmental Services Manager
Strategic Themes	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To report consultation feedback following the Notice of Proposal for the District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024.
- 1.2 To seek approval to proceed with the publication of the Notice of Making for the District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024.

2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 That Cabinet consider the responses received during the Consultation.
- 2.2 To approve the publication of the Notice of Making for the District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 That Cabinet review the consultation responses detailed in Table 1 of this report.
- 3.2 There is a statutory process to be followed to introduce any changes to the way in which the Council regulates its car parks.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024 Notice of Proposal went out for consultation on 16th October 2024, following approval from Cabinet and Scrutiny on 16th September and 8th October, respectively.

This is a statutory 21 day consultation period where members of the public are invited to comment on the proposed changes to the Parking Order. The consultation concluded on 6th November 2024. The results of the consultation are summarised in Table 1 below.

In total, there were 88 responses to the consultation.

- Not mentioned in any of the consultation responses received were: the two Experimental Orders, the EV charging bays and the removal of the Parish owned car parks.
- The proposal to introduce Season Tickets at Weavers Court, Johns Court and Enderby Road Car Parks received comments in support of this proposals.
- All responses received had some mention regarding the proposals at Bouskell Park Car Park.

The main objections received were:

- Car Park charges may discourage users of the park which may have a detrimental impact to resident's physical and mental health.
- Vehicle displacement may cause parking obstructions and the potential for an increase of road accidents, particularly on Freer Close.
- Concerns around effective use of Council money.
- Some parents from the local primary school raised concerns around congestion and impact on school drop off.

Table 1- Summary of respondents views:

Issue of concern	Discourages use of the park	Vehicle displacement	Waste of money	School run parking	Other	Supports Proposal	Total
Number of Comments	40	28	7	4	8	1	88

Most respondents to the consultation rejected the idea of introducing parking charges at Bouskell Park Car Park in its entirety, however some responses suggested alterations to the proposal as opposed to completely rejecting charges:

- 17% of respondents suggested allowing the first 1-2 parking hours to be free before charges apply
- 3% of respondents suggested removing parking charges on Sundays
- 3% of respondents suggested only charging between 9am and 3pm
- 1% of respondents suggested reducing the fees introduced.

Several respondents also asked for free parking for disabled users. The 3 hours free parking for disabled users with a valid Blue Badge and time clock was already proposed to be included at Bouskell Park Car Park, in line with the Council's other pay and display car parks.

This matter was considered at length by Scrutiny on 8th October, the key points raised and debated at this meeting were consultation, impacts on off street parking, enforcement and concerns around charging.

4.2 Proposal(s)

Whilst the proposal to introduce charges is not a popular one with respondents of the consultation, the number of responses received is small compared to previous car park consultations and number of residents consulted. For example, in 2022 there was a consultation of the Blaby District Council Car Parking Strategy and The District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2022. This consultation received 438 responses.

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2024-2034 and Car Parking Strategy 2022-2027 support the introduction of parking charges at Bouskell Park Car Park, and therefore it remains appropriate to continue with the introduction of the Parking Order.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

Whilst not a consultation the Notice of Making will be publicised once a decision on the Parking Places Order is finalised. This is statutory and takes place prior to the introduction of the District of Blaby (Off-Street) Parking Places Order 2024.

4.4 Significant Issues

An EINA was completed prior to the Cabinet Meeting on 16th September 2024. No significant issues have been identified relating to Human Rights, Human Resources, Equalities or Public Health Inequalities. Legal implications regarding the making of an Order are contained within the reports.

5. Environmental impact

- 5.1 A Net Zero and Climate Impact Assessment (NZCIA) has been carried out and no adverse impacts identified. Overall, the changes proposed in the Parking Order will have a positive Net Zero and Climate Impact.

The proposed provision of Electric Vehicle chargers within the district will encourage the use of greener vehicles.

The increased provision of season tickets may encourage behavioural change in relation to transport choice and will improve processing efficiency.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 6.1 There are costs associated with the statutory process of introducing a new Parking Order and introducing charging within a new Car Park:

- Notice of Making advertising - £5,000
- New machine - £3,000
- Signage - £3,000

These upfront costs will be covered from existing budgets and external funding sources.

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
The District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024 is not implemented.	Approve the Order to allow for the proposed changes to be legally implemented and car park enforcement to be delivered across the Council owned car parks.
Introduction of parking charges at Bouskell Park may have an impact on displacement parking.	The County Council are already investigating potential mitigation for the on-street impact.
Introduction of season tickets may impact the number of available parking spaces in the car parks.	It is proposed to limit the number of season tickets available in each car park.

8. Other options considered

- 8.1 There is the option to make no amendments to the current parking places order, however this would not allow for effective enforcement where experimental orders have been in place. Failure to introduce charging at the Bouskell Park Car Park would not be in line with the previously approved Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Car Parking Strategy.

- 8.2 The Notice of Making is a legal requirement to allow changes to be made to the operation of car parks within the district.

9. Appendix

- 9.1 Appendix A – Consultation responses
9.2 Appendix B – Notice of Making - The District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024

10. Background paper(s)

- 10.1 The District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024 Cabinet Report – 16th September 2024
10.2 Call in of District of Blaby (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024 Scrutiny Commission Report- 8th October 2024.

11. Report author's contact details

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