

## Comments

Brilliant idea with the 20 mins free charge ! Is it not possible to put a barrier system in one of the car parks? Pay as you go it's the fairest way to pay for what you use! Thanks fil

The proposed increase from £7 to £12 for a weekly parking ticket is too high and is in excess of the RPI.

I live in the centre of Melton and don't have parking at my property; I leave my car in Burton Street car park. Imposing a limited number of 'long stay' spaces isn't fair on residents of Melton. It is often hard to find a space in Burton Street car park which would mean people in my position will have to be continually moving their cars if they can't initially get a 'long stay' space (which I imagine will also end up costing more too?). There are no other long stay car parks within a reasonable walking distance of my house. It is already a pain not having my own parking and this would greatly add to the inconvenience.

Hi I would really like to see a long stay car park in the town centre that is reasonably priced for everyday use - work purposes - myself and my staff work at The Kettleby Cross and unfortunately our pub has no parking for us, we are at work from 5am until 2am everyday on various shifts and there is no nearby long stay spaces that we can park in that are close and safe to the pub considering the abnormal hours that we work. I would really love it if you would be able to come up with an answer to our problem, thank you Zoe - Pub Manager

Free 20mins on all car parks is a very good idea.

Burton St car parking for workers is absolutely vital. I have bought a weekly ticket for years and some mornings it is extremely difficult to find a space and to cut it down more so that shoppers can have a short stay would be ludicrous. They can park for 2 hours at supermarkets, there is on street parking both on Sherrard St and Burton St for those wishing to pop in for 20 mins. Workers are vital to the town and to cut down their parking spaces in my view is totally unreasonable. If you live in rural areas public transport is expensive and unreliable. The bus services have been cut to every other hour making it extremely difficult to fit in work hours and with more cutbacks due to who is to say we won't lose that service all together. How then do people get in to work. In my opinion leave the parking as it is. If it's not broke then it doesn't need fixing !!

As someone who owns a small business located in the town centre I have several concerns that I think the Council should reflect upon and consider. They are:

• The changes seem to be considered only in respect of shoppers and not business people. As a town centre business we buy two weekly (long term) tickets at £7.00 each and I know several other business owners who do the same. Making the car park short term only will in effect remove business parking and deter people from opening non-retail businesses in the town centre. Although the Council say there will be some long term provision, my guess is that this will be primarily allocated to council office users. Incidentally, the car park gets so full of market vehicles on Tuesdays that we usually have to buy a day ticket at the station (£3.50 each). There is of course no refund on our lost day in Burton Street and the Council doesn't have a sharing agreement with the station. Making the council long stay could presumably also stop market traders parking there and deter market trade?

• I don't see a reason for a free 20 minutes as the location of the car park, at some distance from amenities, would make it useless. Better to not increase charges and keep the timing as at present

• I see no point in changing Mill Street, it is difficult to get to and too small to be relevant

• The tickets should be self-adhesive " I have been fined twice where valid tickets have blown off the dashboard when I have closed the door on windy days

• The parking machines should take card payment " finding £7.00 of change every week is a nuisance!

It's hard enough for retailers to get the public to visit Melton Mowbray already, one of the disadvantages to is due to parking charges, especially on Market day, £1.10 per hour to park a car is already expensive! I receive many unfavourable comments about parking fees from customers as it is, so don't believe it would benefit the town centre by increasing the parking fees. Look at the empty shops!

Shop Staff who work in the town centre, can only purchase a parking permit to park in long stay car parks which is inconvenient and impractical if you don't work near a long stay car park, if you also use your vehicle to deliver stock, parking half a mile away is not suitable. I'm sure the current parking fees charged make the council more than enough to cover the costs incurred to maintain the parking facilities, so increasing the parking charges will not benefit anyone but the council's pocket, drive people away from the town centre, reducing the footfall for businesses, and ruining the prospect of small businesses recovering from the hard times they have endured over the last few years. I'm sure other council plans will be to increase business rates this year which will again affect the retailers in the town!

Thanks for all your support!

• A general car park charge increase (a majority below RPI).- Parking is already expensive in Melton- an increase puts off visitors.

• Re-designating most of the Burton Street Car Park into Short Stay, but retaining some area for long stay.- in favour of this frees up spaces but alternative needs to be offered to long term parkers/shop workers

• Removal of the 1 hr. tariff for Mill Street Car Park (Long Stay Car park)- does this mean no short term parking ok if Burton Street goes ahead otherwise just a revenue increase.

Not sure increasing the car park charges will have the desired effect on passing trade. I often have people commenting on the current charges being too high and Tuesday being even more.

Our market has been dwindling for a number of years, maybe its time to abolish the Tuesday parking charge and concentrate on getting more people back into to the so called market town that we once were.

The 20 min free option is a good idea as some times people just want to nip to the bank.

We often have customers using our car park and nipping into town - this is not all bad as they usually spend money but not all do and as a result we can have a full car park but no customers.

Long stay is good idea as we have workers in the town from other areas but sometimes struggle to park.

I would also like to mention that as contractors to the town and surrounding areas it is not always easy to find a parking place especially if you have heavy equipment to carry - as such I would like to know if you could introduce a contracting parking scheme, to avoid not only unnecessary drives around the block but also parking fines.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I would support a one price approach for Short & Long Stay Car Parks but changing the times. So both with a time range of 8am to 4pm (free Sundays).

Short Stay = 1 hr Â£1, 2hrs Â£2, 3 hrs max Â£3.

Long Stay + 2hrs Â£1.50, 4hrs Â£3 All day Â£4, Weekly ticket Â£10.

So effectively do away with the Tuesday surcharge, increase charges to easy amounts and give free parking from 4pm.

I obviously cannot calculate the rates against usage but after initial moans about higher rates I am sure regular users will understand the need and gestures made.

I agree that a short period of free parking is useful and beneficial to promote local population use of Melton town for those local services and popping into town to make collections or get one off's, but I feel 30 minutes is needed as a minimum as the elderly or infirm walk slowly and say to get to Boots and back from the car park to queue and wait for a prescription can easily exceed 20 minutes. Any shop or service where a queue is involved is likely to make the 20 minute limit impossible.

Beyond the increased income, I can see no case to make most of Burton Road car park a long stay car park. Right now the car work functions very well with there always being spare spaces to park in. What is the justification/logic in changing this. What benefit would be gained to the wider community?

What you want to put prices up again? We should get a 20 minute grace for parking anyway because we're citizens of melton. Why should we pay Â£1.10 on a Tuesday just to pop into the bank for 5 minutes or to quickly get an item from argos. Prices up? Sure why not. Here's an idea, make it free to park after 4 pm everyday, then you can do whatever you want with your prices. I pay enough in rent and tax for services I don't get already the least you can do is give something back to the residents in Melton.

Another thought, Bath gives its residents a certain pass to use when parking or using facilities as it's a big tourism place how's about we give long standing residents a discount on parking, facility prices and other things. Surely you're not trying to come up with more ways to rip us off

I live in the centre of Melton and don't have parking at my property and I use the Burton Street car park to park my car long stay. I worry if you make it mainly short stay parking then I will struggle to find a long stay space and will be forced to find alternative parking which will be much further from my home and therefore impractical. Please keep the car park the same with any space being short stay or long stay.

As a small business based in Melton at Church Street Practice, I use the Burton street Car Park from 8:30am to 8pm as the practice has no car park of its own. Although I am not against an increased price for parking I am fearful that I will not get space in the long stay car park and feel a larger area needs to be dedicated for people who work in the town centre and park in Burton street car park all day. When i arrive at 8:30am there is already a large number of cars parked up (these people obviously work in the town centre) I treat clients in a 5 hour block and therefore impossible for me to park in the short stay (3hours) even if i were to pop out at lunch and purchase i ticket for the afternoon. Further more I have a large amount of equipment that i take from my car to the practice and therefore like to park as close as i can to the town so Im not carrying these heavy things too far. I feel your proposed plans are not in the interest of many that work in the centre and I am saddened that you seem to be trying to make things more difficult for those businesses that are trying to keep Melton a prosperous and viable town. I hope that you will reconsider the plans to decrease the number of long stay parking spaces in Burton street car park, a view shared by many business owners I am sure.

I feel that Burton St car park works really well as it is as there is such poor parking for people working in the town and this is the only car park that is suitable for workers. I feel a change to make it more short stay would be a mistake, before the council with their nice private car park make this decision please think of the workers in town that keep Melton going and really need the help.

I am unhappy with some of burton rd car park being changed to short stay. A lot of people working in town use this car park. It will cause more congestion on ankle hill,sandy lane, craven st.

You state that you have not increased prices since 2011 yet Melton still has the most expensive parking prices in any Leicestershire town!!!! The prices of our car parks in Melton is driving people away. Why come to Melton to shop when you could go to the likes of Loughborough that has more choice of shops and cheaper to park the car? Also there needs to be more car parking for long stay for the workers in Melton as that can be a nightmare too all long stay is by the park/council area nothing in town itself. Whoever came up with the idea of increasing car park charges needs to visit other towns and check out their parking prices and realize they are charging over the odds especially when Melton is a dying town as well.

I think a 30-minute free period would be better as they do in Nottingham. I think this should be in the car park closest to the town centre so the bell centre or the one by the police station. How will this be manned though so people do not get ticketed when they have been less than 30 minutes. An in/out barrier is used in Nottingham.

I think re-designating most of the Burton Street Car Park into Short Stay is a mistake. Re-designate some of it into short stay and keep most of it long stay.

The first 20 minutes free is not long enough. 40 minutes would be ideal. If you think that is too long then at the very least make it 30 minutes free.

1. Rather than a 20 minute free parking, please make it 30 minutes. It can take at least 10 minutes to get into and from town which leaves you only 10 minutes to shop. This quickly disappears if you are in a queue as will indeed happen in the proposed new siting of the Post Office.
2. I disagree with converting a lot of Burton Street car park to short stay and only having a limited number of long stay parking bays. These will be taken over by vans etc. used by the market traders and will leave nothing for those of us who wish to spend more than 2 hours in Melton. You should be encouraging people to stay in Melton by making sure there is adequate parking for long stay customers. Burton Street car park is also used a lot by railway commuters and that should be borne in mind.
3. We will have lost the long stay parking area at Thorpe End, and Scalford Road car park is too far away from the town. We need the long stay parking spaces in the Burton Street car park.
4. You should ban traders from using parking spaces along Sherrard Street. There are times when there are no parking spaces for the public as shop keepers like Bargain Booze, the Carpet shops on both sides of Sherrard Street, Flower Paradise, Scarborough Fishmongers etc. all park their vans and cars along Sherrard Street taking up valuable parking slots for those of us who just want to pop in to town. Flower Paradise even lines his trolleys up in one of the parking spaces sometimes. The ban should certainly come in if the Post Office is to be relocated to Sherrard Street as all the spaces will be needed for people who want to drop off parcels at the post office or use the post office services as well as those popping into newsagents, the butchers etc.
5. There should be more free parking spaces for 1hr.
6. Why not make Burton Street car park a two-storey car park. It would not be any more "detrimental to the street scene" only being two storeys high, than the Council Offices are, and they ARE an eyesore. If the Council offices could be built there I see no reason why a two storey car park can't be.
7. How about making a two storey car park on that wasteland on Norman Way next to the garage. It has been fenced off for several years now and nothing has happened to it. There are pedestrian traffic lights nearby so that people would have easy and quick access to the town.
8. The existing parking charges should not be increased. They are higher than parking charges in some cities where there is far more to attract visitors than here in Melton. By increasing the parking charges, you are deterring people from visiting the town. What with the traffic congestion and the high parking charges, it is a wonder we get any visitors now never mind with the increase in parking fees. You should be encouraging visitors not putting them off.
9. I am a resident of Melton, and if I can't find a free parking space, I go to one of the supermarkets and do my shopping there instead. I want to use the shops in town but refuse to pay the high parking fee. "Rip-off-Britain"!
10. There are far too many disabled parking slots in town. Some of them are in ridiculous places where, if I was disabled, I would not dream of

the alterations to the car parks appears to be Ok. If the 20 minutes free parking is adopted I suggest that the on street parking on Chapel Street is removed as with the bus stop and the amount of traffic it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident.

Car Park fees should not be raised! We should encourage consumers to the town not put them off with higher than average car park fees, and seriously what can be achieved in 20 minutes? maybe the first hour should be free!

The parking charges in Melton are already more than other nearby towns. The Tuesday charges in particular are a disgrace. Has any single person replied to this consultation and said they agree the charges should be higher?

20 minutes is not long enough to visit the market and enjoy a drink somewhere. It needs to be at least 40.

Retailers will not be able to compete when parking is at these prices. It's easier to go into Leicester.

Parking charges in Melton are already excessive enough. Higher fees on a Tuesday are scandalous. Why should we be penalised to come into town on a Tuesday compared to any other day? Indeed, my family and many others actually AVOID coming into town on a Tuesday because of the excessive parking charges. This has an adverse affect on trade and local business. The tarmac is no more expensive to maintain on Tuesdays than any other day! Free period should be 30 minutes as is the case in many other local authority areas. Twenty minutes does not give people much chance to do anything useful. We are finally seeing an improvement in the quality of shops in the town centre yet Melton Council can only think of increasing charges which will only serve to drive people away from them and to shop out of town!

The parking in Melton is already very expensive compared to other small towns and cities. It is no wonder that the town centre doesn't attract shoppers. The increase of the weekly long stay ticket is ridiculous. Â£7 to Â£12 is bonkers who on earth thought that was an acceptable increase? You're going to create havoc on ankle hill and nearby streets when those who catch the trains daily boycott the car parks.

You should be lowering prices to encourage more people into town , it's wrong to charge so much on a Tuesday . I think the pricing of the car park near the council office is the best way forward even if I nip into town I still prefer to park there as I know I am covered if I get held up .

I take you quote here! Helping the town? How is this helping the town when recommended increases are driven as a result of reduced Government funding and you the council are making up the deficit by these so called helping the town charges. I'm for payment parking, (at sensible charges aimed at encouraging people to shop/visit etc) but your charges aren't even fair e.g. Short term parking (3 hours) is a lot more expensive than paying in designated long term car parks. This maybe aimed at redirecting vehicle users, however if long term parking is full throughout, then you actually force the user to have to park in short term - costing much more!! And this is you helping the town? or maybe a deliberate strategy to raise more revenue.???

excellent idea of some free parking to pick things up but why 20mins I would have thought 30mins would be more sensible. the small rise would be fine

I think the change in the pricing is absolutely disgusting, I work at ocean blue fish shop on burton street I have to pay Â£7 a week to park as it is which I think is a joke! My boss who pays business rates and God knows what else to Mbc has to pay Â£14 a week to park delivery cars which you are proposing he'll now have to pay Â£24 a week! Can I ask why the business's have no allocated parking spaces? Seeing as when he purchased the business years ago it came with parking outside and free parking behind? And why do we have no allocated loading bay? Your super keen parking attendant seems to want to ticket us everytime we have a delivery, yet when she walks out of her office above the toy she ignores the 2 cars from the toy shop that's parked on double yellow lines (obviously made friends with them). You claim to be a council all about the town but you clearly are not look around the town at all the empty shops, the town looks like a ghost town so many people would love to open a business in town but can't because of your extortionate rates! All this added parking charge will do is further kill the trade in the town centre! In December last month you did a free parking after 3pm which was good but then it was short lived as you ended it on the 31st December. Please could I have a reply to ALL of my questions please.

I'm disappointed that ur moving the long stay car park to mill Street where there is no spaces for parent and child, my grandma is very unsteady on her feet so moving it is an inconvenience. Burton road is much more suited for town plus weddings and other facilities. I pay Â£3.30 on a Saturday as my daughter is at dancing for a lengthy time and we have a good walk to the college from there.

I currently use the Burton Street car park most frequently when I visit the town centre. Since before Christmas it has become increasingly difficult to find spaces. I suspect that this is because customers are using it for all day parking when they are at work. With reduced long stay places what are they supposed to do? In addition if I was lucky enough to find a space in the proposed long stay car park I would choose to park there at a charge of Â£1.50 for 3 hours as opposed to Â£2.60 for 3 hours in a short stay car park. Guess who will be deserting Melton shops and using her free bus pass ( while she still has it) to take her custom to Leicester or Nottingham.

I think the weekly charge going from 7 to 12 pounds is ridiculous and penalizes those that have to work all week in the town? I suppose the Council have to subsidize their free parking somehow?

As a weekly ticket holder on the Burton Street site I am disgusted to find that not only can I not park there as it will no longer be a long stay car park but I will have to find Â£12 in pound coins to fight for a place in a much smaller car park. The majority of cars in the Burton street car park are long stay cars, have you tried to find a spot around 9am? where do you propose we all park as we won't fit in Mill Street, and if I am going to be paying Â£12 I want a guaranteed space.

I'm in agreement with these changes as long as the 4 hour tariff can be applied to either of the car parks near the cinema? We regularly get customers complaining that they can't park for long enough, and sometimes they have to leave the film to buy a new ticket, which is obviously less than ideal. An option to park for longer at either car park would be a great idea in my eyes.

Many thanks

Generally, I agree with the new proposed charges. However, I would like to see the free parking period - which is a very positive move - extended to 30 minutes. I feel that 20 minutes is far too short, even simply to visit the bank, but 30 minutes would enable visitors, especially older ones, to take advantage of the free period. It can take around 5 minutes walk each way to a shop or bank, and if there is a queue, it can easily take more than 10 minutes to be served - a 20 minutes free period is very tight. Also the free period should apply every day, including Tuesday. Excepting Tuesday from the free period will add an amount of confusion to the fees, and makes the situation unnecessarily complicated.

As one of the longest established businesses in town and dealing with customers all day! Over the past 19 years I've been in town working here I can say that most people talk about is the car park prices are too high especially on Tuesday I understand there has to be increases but I think as part of the BID that we were supposed to talk about introducing a loyalty system, where as if you spend money in the shops you could get a money back or discount on parking! Thing this would encourage people to spend in the shops and not have them moaning about the price increase! If not then they will start to go elsewhere where the town is already struggling! Don't turn customers away to other towns! I talk to customers all day and they all say the same thing prices too high! May as well go to out of town shopping!

As a business owner in Melton Mowbray I buy a weekly ticket to park in the Burton Street car park. If you are going to make the majority of spaces short stay parking how can you guarantee that those who have paid for long term parking will be able to get a parking place?

As it is, the market traders on a Tuesday and Saturday take up most of the car park and make it very difficult for everyday traders to park. A £5 increase is astronomical especially, as some days, traders with a weekly ticket are unable to park in places that they have already paid for. Will we be able to get a refund for the days that we are unable to park?

Unless you are able to designate specific places for weekly, monthly or yearly paying customers, this idea is a joke. I look forward to your reply.

I am disappointed but not shocked to see that you have gone ahead and proposed an increase in the majority of the tariffs. I still feel that a reduction would have been a better step forward and encouraged more of the public into the town.

20 minutes free parking is not long enough, it would barely give enough time to visit a bank, particularly if there is a queue. 30 minutes would be more appropriate.

I note that most private companies allow up to two hours free parking (Morrisons, Sainsbury, KFC/Carphone Warehouse/Pets at home)

The number of empty retail units in town is astonishing, we need to create measures which will re-generate the town centre, rather than encourage people to stay away.

I have never understood why charges are higher on market day. If anything they should be lower in order to encourage visitors to the market, which may result in more stall-holders whose numbers have been steadily declining in recent years.

It is stated that the general price increases are mostly below RPI. However, the calculations indicate increases of between 12% (Tuesdays 3 hours) and 57% (Weekly season ticket).

Object to it all. Keep it the same.

What justification is there to increase prices? It is ridiculous to have a short stay of 20 minutes free. Nothing can be done in 20 minutes.

There should be no "short stay" only car parks. People should be able to park as long as they like. It is not like there is a shortage of spaces.

Also you continue to have higher prices for Tuesdays which is discriminatory against people who have to come to town on Tuesdays such as market traders.

The pay by card / phone aspect is another way of confusing people and making it harder to park.

Dear Sirs

I have become aware of the proposed car park changes from the Melton Mail. I am disappointed that the weekly long stay car parking charges are being increased by £5.00 a week. I feel that £7.00 a week is a reasonable charge but understand that prices will increase over time but £12.00 a week is getting on to be nearly double the charge. I appreciate the facility of having a long stay car park as I live in a Village covered by the Melton Borough Council but work in the Town. My two daughters are cared for in the town while I am at work and I prefer shop at lunchtimes supporting the local businesses rather than using larger chains. I would not therefore mind paying a little more for such a good facility but the increase does seem to be quite large. I also feel that by making most of the Burton Street car park a short stay car park with only a small number of long stay spaces will add to traffic congestion. I and a number of people I have spoken to come into town from the Burton Road area and it would mean more cars going through the centre of town to enable us to park at another long stay facility such as Scalford Road. When I park my car in the morning in the Burton Street car park the majority of cars I see parked on a daily basis are also still parked there when I return to my car just after 5pm which indicates to me that the majority of the car park is used by people who work in the town and is an invaluable resource for people who are supporting the town centre. On the other hand I am pleased to see the change of having 20 minutes free car parking for very short trips into town for people picking up children/prescriptions for example. The Wilton Road car park is central for the town as a short stay shoppers car park. I work in High Street and whenever I am passing Wilton Road this is never full so it seems that there is plenty of parking there for shoppers. Many thanks for giving me the opportunity of putting my views across.

I believe this to be an incomplete strategy. To boost the trade and feel of the centre of Melton I think the most central car parks should be free for up to 1 hour and the remaining car parks have the increased charges. Look at towns like Malton in Yorkshire where they actively encourage shopping by removing the charges. It also negates the need for as many wardens in those car parks.

As some one who works in the town centre Monday to Friday, I think these proposed changes disproportionate, and way above inflation since 2011. These increases and removals of long stay parking within a reasonable distance are punishing those who trade in Melton and keep to town alive. Don't push business out of town, you need local commerce.

These changes are most disappointing. There seems to be no consideration about the people who work in Melton full time. It is bad enough trying to get a space in one of the long stay car parks as it is. I am not registered disabled but have arthritis and Burton Street is just the right distance for work - are you going to make the people who contribute to the economy in the town on a daily basis walk further to get in. Will the machines be accepting cards and notes or are we to now have to find £12.00 worth of change - if you buy a weekly ticket can you guarantee I will have a space all week or will I have to pay again usually on a Tuesday when the car park is full as your tickets are not transferable to other car parks. The price rise is massive and wont reflect the average working persons pay rise for the year. I travel from a different county to work and after school runs etc I fear I am now going to be forced out of a convenient place to park. Annoying really when you look across at all the spaces that are free in the council office car park!

So you now want me to pay my £12.00 per week for long stay parking. You are also considering taking away the facility for long stay parking or reducing it drastically. So where are we going to park? Our weekly ticket, I am presuming, will not be transferable, so we are buying a ticket which is basically useless if the parking spaces are limited. You are doing a great job is convincing me that this is a rubbish idea. Please note I live outside of Melton, but I work in the town centre. I shop virtually every lunch time in the town centre as do my colleagues. I would like to be thought of as a very valuable contributor of revenue to local businesses. I am therefore asking you to reconsider the proposal to reduce the long stay car parking and have regard for workers who don't have the luxury of private car parking. As a closing point, I am not enthused about the proposed increase of £5.00 per week for the privilege of parking in a none parking space. That is an increase of £260.00 per year. My pay rise, if I get one, will certainly not cover that!

Whilst the 20 min free parking is welcome for those wishing to pay a quick visit to the bank it may not be enough if you are unlucky and find yourself at the end of a queue- a walk from the car park to the town could be 5+ minutes (each way) depending on your level of fitness so 30 mins would be more appropriate.

You are claiming the price increases are no more than the RPI - given the increase ranges from 14.28% to 30% you are clearly mistaken, current RPI is no where near even the lowest increase.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I must say I am dismayed at your new proposals for car parking! Increasing the Long-Term car parking charge from £7 to £12 per week is an absolute rip-off! I, like many other employees working in the Melton Mowbray area need to use the car park for work purposes and this will have a substantial impact on my income. An increase of this scale is simply unacceptable. Do you wish to drive employees out of Melton?

I know you will probably come back to me with alternatives like the monthly parking option. However, I prefer to pay on a week by week basis and not to have to commit to a longer term charge as some weeks, I will be out of the office on business or on holidays. I'm also not interested in any bus replacement service etc that may be proposed. Such services have proved themselves to be unreliable on a winter's evening and have no value.

I appreciate that you are under pressure from central government with cut-backs etc. But to me, whether it is local government or national government, you are all governmental institutions. I pay enough in taxes as it is. Perhaps it would be helpful if the Chancellor/HMRC could go back to Google and extract a fair tax rate as opposed to the £130m that they have agreed on which is such a small percentage of Google's UK income?

If these charges go ahead as proposed, I think many employees will be leaving Melton and securing work options elsewhere.

I believe it will be impossible to police the 20min free time. It would require full time attendants to prevent abuse.

The all week prices are going up too steeply. As an employer of about 20 people in the town centre, many of which are not on particularly high salaries, parking costs are important. Whilst they could buy a 1-year pass, most people don't have those resources to hand or indeed want to pay £780 in one go.

Affordable Parking is a necessary service required to keep small business like mine in the town centre.

Secondly, the charging matrix is too complicated. People will make mistakes and get fined lots of money. Set one price and be done with it.

I think the parking charges in Melton are very high and do not encourage visitors to the town, especially on a Tuesday. In fact I spoke to a man at one of the paying machines and he called the Council "robbers" and said he had stopped coming to Melton as he could go elsewhere as there was not a lot to come to Melton for anyway. I think the introduction of a 20 minutes park is a very good idea as it has cost me a small fortune taking my grandchildren to nursery which only took ten minutes yet cost me an hours parking twice a day. Mint would also be a good idea if the machines gave change instead of taking even more money than they should. We should be encouraging people to come here, not driving them away.

I work in the centre of Melton and travel in form Knossington. Public transport is not an option. The proposal to make most of Burton road car parking short stay will add pressure to an already difficult parking situation and particularly if the only alternative is to travel across town to Scalford Road parking; not to mention the additional traffic across to go across town at peak times. How can that make sense?

I do most of my shopping in Melton during work time. If my stay is restricted this will not happen to anything like the same extent, On pricing there is little point in buying the longer term tickets as there will be no guarantee that there will be a long stay place available. That sounds like breach of contract!

The reasons given for the significant increases are frankly not merited unless of course you are basing costs on working moving at the same pace as the 6 workers currently replacing paving slabs in the High street.

Do Melton council really want locals and visitors to shop in town???

20 mins is not sufficient for pensioners to shop. The increase in tariffs will certainly put people off from shopping in Melton if they have to pay extortionate car parking. Do the council not understand this????

I think it's a good idea to have a short period of 'free parking' as this will allow people to pop into the town centre for very brief things, such as visiting the bank.

I do not agree with the increase in parking charges, particularly for short stay. Leicester City Council only charges £1 per hour in its pay and display car parks such as Dover Street which has access to many more shops and facilities than Melton. I consider 80p for 1 hour (or £1.30 on Tuesday) an extortionate amount of money for a small market town with limited services and facilities. Furthermore, keeping the prices as these 'odd' amounts must add a significant amount of money to the income received as the machines do not give change (how many people carry around the change to make up 80p or £1.30?). Surely we should be encouraging people to visit the town centre and spend their money in shops rather than on parking charges? Many people who live in the rural villages surrounding the town have no option other than to drive to the town and park as bus services have been cancelled or significantly reduced over recent years. Penalising people for visiting the town by charging rates that are in some circumstances greater than the City Centre is surely a false economy.

The use of RingGo is a positive move forward, however could I suggest that the Council also checks out 'Phone and Pay' before signing any contract, as this offers a very similar service to users, but without the administration fee that RingGo charges for each use. Cornwall Council used to use RingGo but has recently moved over to Phone and Pay and the service in my opinion is much better, and admin fees are not passed on to the user.

I think the proposals sound fair and a good idea. I particularly like the idea of one or two car parks having a 20 min free period, in particular outside the library (when I want to return my children's library books).

I am concerned about the proposed changes to Car parking charges, particularly to those at the Mill Street Car Park and the elimination of a short stay tariff at that car park.

I am a regular user of that car park, and feel completely unable to comprehend the proposed decision of MBC to eliminate the 1 hourly parking charge at that location whilst maintaining a single hourly charge at other larger car parks elsewhere in the town.

This is a ridiculous proposal for a little used and under-utilised car park. Does anybody at Parkside House ever bother to look at the car park, and the pattern of its usage??? I doubt it!. It is hardly ever used to anything like maximum capacity, but is very useful for persons, like me, requiring to regularly access local businesses in the vicinity .

The loss of a 1 hour parking charge at this location simply looks like an attempt by MBC with the sole purpose of increasing the revenue that they derive from this car park. If you carry out this proposed change, may I remind you that there will then be no other convenient short stay car parking provision in the locality.

I urge MBC both for the benefit of users like me, and for local businesses trading in that vicinity, to consider the retention of a 1 hour parking charge rate at the Mill Street car park. .

I therefore confirm my objection to the proposed car parking charges as set out on your website.

I think it's a terrible idea to change the Burton Street car park to mainly short stay. I work in town and when I arrive at 08.40 the car park is pretty full, which would indicate that it is used by many town employees . The car park on Mill Street could not accommodate us all. Also the price increase is roughly 60% for a week's parking! How can you justify this increase?  
This will result in more people parking on nearby streets like Ankle Hill instead.

My concern is about the reduction in long term parking in Burton street . I am a volunteer at the fox and use that car park . I need to park for over 4 hours and the reduction in number could make it difficult for me to find a space for the time needed to support the work of Storehouse. I also use long term parking when i come in to shop - staying and having a hot drink and light bite to eat. Again if i can only find short stay parking I will be unable to support the local cafes etc. Reducing long term spaces could hurt local businesses as shoppers are unlikely to browse - limited parking leads to focused shopping rather than impulse buying.

I use the weekly tariff currently £7 for my three days voluntary work in the town centre the idea of having a £12 charge is a mind blowing 40+% increase. Disgusting. Driving people away from town centre. As a matter of interest does the council offices have its own private car park or do members of staff pay the same as the residents of the town.



Thank you for sending me a copy of MeltonMail which deals with the draft Melton local plan. It is of great interest to read of the car parking changes. As I am a blue badge holder, and as I am unable to walk very far, and with much difficulty, I do hope that the proposed changes for the Burton Street car park do not involve any reduction in the disabled provision. That area, near the Church and into the market place, is a real lifeline for those such as myself to get to the centre of our town. Other disabled parking spaces are few and far between and all leave a much longer and difficult access to the town centre.

Please give as much consideration as you can to those of us who can only walk with much difficulty. Regards, Ian Bulmer

I travel to Melton from Leicester every day as I work in Melton & I currently park at Burton St car park. Under the new proposes, how many spaces will be allocated for long stays? I am considering buying a 6 monthly ticket but I'm not sure I will even be able to get a space. Are you going to guarantee me a parking space? This idea seems to me that you don't want anyone to park there for a long stay! I can't park at Scalford road either as that car park is in such a state with pot holes etc that it is scandalous that you can ask people to pay Â£12.00!! Can you please contact me with my queries.

Could you introduce a permit for all households in Melton.

There could be an annual charge and then you could have 2 hours free for each visit which could be shown by a card in the front window. This could be instead of the free 20 minutes which is going to be difficult to police.

The hike in charges is enormous - i wish I had a suitable payrise to reflect this! Fair enough but if I am to pay Â£12 per week and park as always in the Mill Street car park, by you closing some of the Burton Street car park and making it short stay only, am I going to be guaranteed a parking space at Mill Street? I do not want to be paying your exorbitant price for a parking ticket to find that because of your actions in making Burton Street mostly short stay, the knock-on effect to me is to be unable to park in the car park for which I pay weekly for? Can you justify this? Will I be able to park elsewhere using my weekly ticket? I look forward to hearing from you.

I think that the proposal for Burton St car park is unfair. All you are thinking about is the short stay & not the long stay. I work in Melton & park in Burton St along with many other people all day, I would say that over half of that car park is currently used by long stay people. You say that most of the car park is going to be allocated for short stay so there will not be enough spaces for long stay. I can understand that the price must increase (I am willing to pay this) but you need to allocate more spaces for the long stay, there are not enough long stay car parks in Melton. There are plenty of short stay car parks in Melton already, why do you need to do this? All this will end up doing is driving people to park on the road outside people's houses - I really do not want to do this! Also, on a Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri the Burton St car park will be half empty & there will be no revenue generated. Mill St does not have adequate parking spaces & Scalford Rd well where do I start with this! This car park is full of pot holes, does not have adequate lines to show where you can park, is designed very badly & on Tuesday's you will not be able to get a space! Are you going to re-design Scalford Rd car park? If you expect people to pay Â£12 per week, they will want a better parking space than what is on offer there already. I beg you to please re-consider the allocation of the long stay spaces in the Burton St car park, I think it will be fairer if the allocation was split at least 50/50 or better still, leave it as it is & just raise the price & see how things go first? Please think about the people who have to work in Melton as well as the visitors - I travel from Leicester so have to drive. There is one more thing, there are no signs in Burton St car park telling people of the proposed changes, this is a little unfair as I'm sure many people do not realise what is going on.

I have recently become aware of the fact that Melton Borough Council are proposing to increase parking charges in all of their car parks from April 2016. As a daily user of the Burton Street car park I have serious concerns regarding the Council's proposals.

I purchase a weekly ticket from the ticket machine at Burton Street which currently costs me £7 per week. I understand from your website that it is proposed that the charge will increase to £12 per week from April. I would submit that this is an excessive increase to the weekly parking charges. I appreciate you say the charges have not increased since 2011 but this is not the fault of the users of the car park and Melton Borough Council have had the opportunity to increase the charges as they see fit since 2011.

Of more concern to me however is the fact that you appear to be proposing redesigning Burton Street into a short stay car park. Burton Street car park is a very popular car park for people who work in Melton (I work in a very small office but at least four of us park in Burton Street on a daily basis. The car park is always full and on a Tuesday some of the market traders park there which then has the effect of reducing the number of spaces available in any event. There are a number of short stay car parks available in Melton (St Marys Way, Chapel Street, Wilton Road and Waterfield Leisure Centre). However in comparison there are very few long stay car parks available. You state on your website that parking charge increases will make better and more appropriate use of our car parks and We feel this pricing strategy will help the town in regards to assisting with very short trips and the availability of longer stay when demand is high and avoid congestion by making adequate short stay provision from the south. I fail to see how your proposals will make things better for people who use the car park daily and ensure more appropriate use of the car park. I feel that the Council is making sure that people who visit Melton for short periods are better catered for whilst making long stay car parking for those of us who work in Melton much more difficult and perhaps impossible. Are the Council really more interested in short term visitors rather than regular, long stay customers who from April 2016 will be paying £12 per week. I live in Old Dalby and as such have no choice but to drive into Melton and park in order to work due to the inadequate regular bus service from Old Dalby. Could I point out that without people like myself who work in Melton many of which will be regular users of long stay car parks, there would be no businesses open as there would be no staff at those business. I also note from your website that there are going to be monthly, six monthly and annual tickets available which would make the parking slightly cheaper than a weekly ticket. My concern about this is that even if I were to pay almost £400 for an annual ticket this DOES NOT guarantee me a space in Burton Street car park particularly. How will people feel if they pay for monthly, six monthly or annual tickets and then find that they are unable to park and have to pay again in another car park (always assuming they can get a space in another car park)? I believe that if the proposal to designate the majority of spaces in the Burton Street car park as short stay spaces then the car park will be empty for much of the day. I don't see how this helps with revenue for the Council and will just further anger people who need to park for a long stay if the car park spends most of the day empty.

By reallocating more spaces to short stay the Council will be encouraging those of us who have no choice but to park in Melton to park on side

I frequently park for up to three hours and feel you are unfairly penalising this as the rates for up to 1 and 2 hours are being increased by 10p per hour so the charge for 3 hours should be £2-30 not £2-60. Also by proportion 4hrs is too cheap and ought to be about £3-20

Positive changes are the 20 minute free period and the extension of short-stay to 4 hours. It's unfortunate that prices are increasing when general inflation is so low and unacceptable that parking costs on Tuesday are double - how is this justified?

As a small business in Melton town centre I believe the short period free parking will support my customers and have a positive impact on my business and others in the town centre. With regards to the long stay car park charges I believe an increase is inevitable when compared to other local towns (eg Loughborough).

I was both very disappointed and appalled by the car parking changes proposals. In particular I cannot see how you can justify the increases in prices. The weekly tariff increasing by nearly 50%. No-one's wages have increased by this much and Melton is already one of the most expensive car parks within the County. All I can see by increasing the charges is that Melton, which is already starting to look like a ghost town, will suffer further, with any shops and businesses looking to trade elsewhere. Furthermore I do not see the advantage of re-designating most of Burton Street Car Park. On using this car park on a regular basis, I note there are a lot of other cars parking there long stay. All I can see by changing this will be there will not be enough long stay parking and will cause further congestion on the already busy roads as people try to park in alternative sites on the other side of town. I do not think these proposals have been thought through to the benefit of both the residents and trades of Melton. Although I do believe the introduction of the free 20 minute period is a good idea.

I refer to the proposed long/short stay parking at Burton St. I have come up with an idea that I hope you will consider. Under the proposal, the long stay will only be allocated the annex at Burton St so there will not be enough spaces for the long stay who wish to park there (I know this for a fact as I have been parking there for 1.5 years & know that nearly half of the whole car park is taken up with long stay). I am asking you to consider that those who pay for either a 6 monthly or a yearly parking ticket be allowed to park anywhere in Burton St car park. The reason for this is that people including myself will be paying huge amounts of money in advance of a space but probably will not be able to get a parking space if we are only allocated the annex part of the car park. This proposal is only fair as we are paying in advance - not everyone will want to pay for these type of tickets but I am willing to pay up front so I can get a space. Please can you consider this proposal - I personally think that this is a good & fair idea.

There is something else I wish to address, the information informing people about these proposed changes in Burton St car park is displayed appallingly - it is placed near the pay machine but so far down you have to kneel down to read it! Surely you can do better than this! Also, the market traders are unaware of these proposed changes - where will they park on a Tuesday?? Probably in the annex then no one will be able to park at Burton St! Melton Borough Council, I don't think that you have really thought this through. Can you please contact me regarding my proposal. Thanks

I refer to my previous e-mail regarding the proposed changes to cost and availability of parking in Burton Street car park. On arriving at Burton Street car park this morning I noted that an A4 piece of paper had been placed AT THE BOTTOM, almost on the floor, near the parking machines detailing the proposed changes. Not only were they inadequately placed for people to read them the print was so small that I would submit that no one will bother to bend down to read the notice and even if they do they simply don't have the time to read something so small. The notices should be prominent at eye level and in a format which is easy for people to read and understand. As I have explained previously I am seriously concerned at the Council's proposals to re-designate Burton Street car park as a short stay only car park leaving only a small annexe car park available for long stay. I feel that the spaces allocated in the annexe are completely and totally inadequate in view of the number of spaces available. I would submit instead that it would make far more sense to retain the existing long stay car parking at Burton Street but perhaps make those spaces available only for long stay users who have purchased six month or annual parking tickets which would then free up spaces for short stay parkers as not everyone who currently uses the car park as long stay will be prepared to pay up front for parking. The users could then display a permit in their car window indicating that they have been prepared to pay "up front" in order to park there. What the Council are doing are leaving those of us who work in Melton with totally inadequate parking provision. Mill Street is a very small car park and I understand from one of my colleagues that Scalford Road car park is full of pot holes and the spaces are inadequately marked and it is possibly even unsafe to park there. In particular on market day these car parks are going to full by the time most of us arrive for work in the morning leaving us with absolutely no where to park. If you are going to re-allocate Burton Street in the way that has been suggested then surely you must provide adequate alternative long stay parking. At the end of the day short stay users can and always have been able to use Burton Street car park, along with a number of other car parks, but long stay car parkers cannot use many of the other car parks in the town as they are short stay only. I feel that this is completely discriminating against those of us who work in Melton town centre. I look forward to hearing from you.

I could find no reference to motorcycle parking in the proposals. It would be beneficial for motorcyclist tourists to have clear signs of where motorcycles should park and that there is no charge when using those specific bays. These spaces should also be clearly prohibited to pedal cyclists who regularly block the motorcycle bays. There are only 3 such bays in Chapel St and St Mary's Way car parks and these are not signed. Whilst there is a large bicycle park at the top of Windsor St.

Car parking should be chargeable and I would agree that it may be time for an increase; however, why should parking on Tuesday (Market Day) be more than other days? We should be encouraging people to come to town every day and not penalising them on a popular day for visitors to the town.

The proposed changes are all a little confusing, and the trial in December, of "Free after 3", doesn't appear to have been referenced or the results reviewed at all.

The % increases vary by day and length of stay, and the new short stay tariff at Â£2.60 is 20p higher than 3 x 1 hour charges?! This is not true on a Tuesday. Also, for long stay the day rate has increased by 6%, which is a much smaller increase than short stay, yet the weekly tariff has increased by 71%. Surely a disproportionate increase of such magnitude cannot be justified.

I regularly use a weekly ticket, and was completely unaware of the season tickets. Again, the cost of these have increased disproportionately with the other increases. Furthermore, the stipulations of "no refunds" means that it is unrealistic that people are able/prepared to commit Â£390 per year, if there is any chance of a change in circumstance e.g. change of job.

In addition, for people who are comfortable committing to an annual season ticket, there is no guarantee that a parking space will be available, especially as long stay spaces in the Burton Street car park will be reduced in number.

I believe you will not only further drive away visitors and locals wishing to visit and purchase from shops in the town, but also workers in the town and those who are helping the environment and easing congestion by using public transport. I also believe that the proposals will, once again, mean that people will not use the car parks and park on roads such as Ankle Hill.

The proposal references the "Car & Coach Parking Strategy" but provides no detail as to the overall aims of the strategy, for example increasing footfall in the town, and there is no reasoning given for the varying % in increases.

I look forward to hearing the outcomes of the consultation, and if possible I would be very interested in seeing the "Car & Coach Parking Strategy".

I think 20 minutes is too short a time to be of use to most people. All it needs is a queue at the bank or post office or whatever and you'd most likely overrun your time and incur a huge fine. Surely 30 minutes is more realistic? There used to be a few spaces with this option at the Wilton Road car park and it was very handy.

I find the whole 'Long Stay' and 'Short Stay' classification annoying as I can't remember which car parks are which. I would rather all of the car parks had a range of options from 30 minutes to 'All Day' so that people could park in the most convenient car park with regard to both where they live and where they wish to visit in the town centre.

My concern regarding the new car parking fees is there may not be sufficient spaces on the Burton Street site for "All Day" parking for those who work in the town. Most Tuesdays and very often Wednesday by 10am there are no spaces left in Burton Street.