

# Knutsford Town Council

Town Clerk: Adam Keppel-Green

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Richard Hibbert

Head of Strategic Transport and Parking

Cheshire East Council

*By Email*

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Richard,

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL PARKING SURVEY**

The Town Council is pleased that Cheshire East Council is bringing forward a new parking strategy and undertaking a pre-consultation survey to help develop its proposals. The Town Council has reviewed the contents of the parking survey and sets out its position on the topics raised below.

The Town Council wishes to have further detailed dialogue with Cheshire East Council to assist in the development of proposals for public consultation and we will be writing to the Portfolio Holder to specifically request this takes place.

In 2020 the Town Council prepared and consulted on the first stage of a Town Centre Masterplan and published the *From Top to Bottom Street* report which outlines a series of proposals for changes to parking and traffic flow in Knutsford. The Town Council has previously formally requested that this be given thorough consideration as part of any reviews into parking and a copy is enclosed for ease of reference.

79% of respondents to the consultation on the report indicated support for increased parking provision within the town centre. It should be noted that parking provision is generally insufficient at peak times i.e. weekends and event days but that otherwise turnover of parking spaces is acceptable. However, it must be noted that like other towns Knutsford is set to grow considerably over the coming years and therefore the Town Council considers that additional parking spaces should be provided in the town centre. Specific proposals are detailed in the *From Top to Bottom Street* report and include providing additional on-street parking, the development of at least one multi-storey car park, the introduction of long-stay parking spaces at the Booths supermarket car park and, in the short-term, a redesign of Tatton Street car park.

The Town Council's views on the specifics of the survey are:

- Cheshire East Council should provide a combination of both short and long stay car parking in Knutsford
- Access by all forms of transport should be promoted equally but that there is currently

an inequality due to poor access/facilities/services for non-car users.

- Parking charges and tariffs should be tailored for each town following careful consideration of the nature of individual towns. This will include consideration of the parking issues in that town, the competition the town centre faces from neighbouring towns and the challenges faced by the town centre.
- On street parking charges should not be introduced on streets nor at business parks as this will displace vehicles to surrounding residential areas
- Park and stride drop off facilities (or other similar measures designed to reduce congestion around schools) should be developed
- Cheshire East Council should introduce emissions based charges to discourage these vehicles from town centres and reduce air pollution
- Parking charges should not be introduced on Sundays
- Night-time charges should only be introduced with the consent of the Town Council for the area concerned
- Pay-by-phone only systems should not be introduced

The Town Council's top priority from the provided list of improvements is for better enforcement of illegal/inconsiderate parking as the current enforcement is severely inadequate and under resourced. Cheshire East Council should reintroduce the abandoned scheme introduced a few years ago where Town Councils provide local direction to priority areas for parking enforcement officers, including targeting specific places at specific times. Dedicated enforcement officers for each town would provide the best informed locally responsive service.

The Town Council wishes to see cash-free payment options at all car parks including the provision of contactless payment options on pay and display machines. The Town Council also wishes to see suitable provision for covered cycle parking at all car parks and will work with Cheshire East Council to deliver this.

The Town Council urges Cheshire East Council to remove the coach parking bays at Tatton Street car park which are inaccessible and would be better used as car parking spaces. In its place, the parking spaces at the Bus Station on Bexton Road should be reserved for coach parking to enable the Town Council to promote Knutsford as a Coach Friendly Town and promote greater tourism by this means.

Yours sincerely



Adam Keppel-Green  
**Town Clerk**

cc. Cllr Laura Crane (Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste)  
Cllrs Quentin Abel, Tony Dean and Stewart Gardiner (Knutsford Ward)