

COMMENTS FROM CLLR KIERAN TERRY

Parking charges

I have several comments in relation to some of the changes to parking charges, not least those planned in my ward.

Chislehurst Town Centre parking charges

Chislehurst's town centre hosts a very high proportion of independent retailers that rely on strong footfall to thrive. Having parking charges at the correct, competitive level plays a fundamental role in ensuring the viability of many businesses in Chislehurst High Street. I am thus deeply disappointed that the proposed charges in my ward are either the same, or more than those in the much larger town centre in Orpington. This seems unfair and unreasonable and as such I request this is reviewed, and perhaps frozen in the same way as is being proposed in Biggin Hill.

In the event of any charge increases, I would appreciate reassurance that the existing charging structure at Red Hill car park, where time is sold in 5p increments, is retained.

Gosshill Road, Chislehurst/Civic Centre parking charges

Gosshill Road also falls within my ward and is a very well used car parking facility as it provides a competitive charge against the slightly more expensive National Rail and privately run APCOA car parks which are closer to the Chislehurst station entrance. The Appendix appears to suggest we are increasing the tariffs and that there would be no maximum daily cap of £4.20 we currently offer. I can only assume the new daily charge will be £6 (plus the additional RingGo charge). Neighbouring car parks offer prices from £4.90 all day, therefore there is a risk of increasing charges and pushing this custom over to our competitors who will offer parking at a lower cost. It appears this hasn't been considered in the new blanket increases. It may be wiser to freeze the Gosshill Road tariff and increase the charges in line with our competitors at a later date.

Similarly in Bromley Town Centre's Civic Centre car park the new charges will make us 20p per hour more expensive than The Glades. It is not obvious why someone would pay so much more to park in one of our car parks when a private company opposite is offering cheaper parking.

I frequently use Palace Grove and St Blaise car parks on weekend visits to Bromley Town Centre. In the case of the former there is currently a maximum stay of 4 hours which doesn't seem to serve much purpose. The car park has sufficient space to accommodate longer stay parking. Currently St Blaise car park charges are proposed to be £14 all day, the same as the Civic Centre multi-storey and nearly twice the all day charge being proposed at The Hill. Both car parks could be better utilised if they were to offer competitive all day parking charges for workers and shoppers in the Town Centre.