

---

**Date:**  
24 January 2025

Andrew Funnell  
Clerk - Lindfield Parish Council  
The Clock Tower House  
Lindfield Enterprise Park  
Lewes Road, Lindfield  
RH16 2LH

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Andrew

### **Village Parking- Stakeholder Engagement**

Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) is continuously working to enhance parking services across the district.

As part of this work, and in line with its Parking Strategy, the Council is currently reviewing existing arrangements in the car parks it operates in the villages of Cuckfield, Lindfield, Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint.

To achieve the best possible outcomes from this work, the Council has partnered with industry experts Parking Matters Ltd (PML) to integrate national best practice, data, and experience into the review, with the aim of designing management regimes that cater to the unique needs of each car park and the communities they serve.

To help us develop our plans, we would like to ask you for your thoughts about parking in your area. This can be in the form of a written response, or if you prefer, an online meeting (via Zoom or Teams).

### **Background**

We already know that the car parks in our villages have to support a range of different users; grab and go shoppers, drivers who want to do a longer shop, or stop for lunch, or a have hair appointment; visitors from outside the villages, people dropping children off for school, residents who use the carparks because there may not be enough space on their road or they may not have their own allocated parking, commuters, and people who work in the villages.

Car parks cost money to maintain and if they are not properly managed, they can result in frustration, with drivers struggling to find a space.

A range of different management regimes are being considered in the MSDC-operated car parks in the villages. At this stage, we are looking at a number of options including:

- Changing length of stay limits.
- Changing the number of long/short stay bays where they exist

*Working together for a better Mid Sussex*

- Changes to parking disc schemes
- Introducing charging to manage demand and increase turnover.
- Considering the number of permits on sites and the location of bays where they exist.

In Lindfield, identified issues include small car parks, high demand and complicated arrangements with permit spaces for residents, employers or service providers. Parking on residential streets close to the centre of village is limited by road width and many properties do not appear to have off-street parking.

Surveys undertaken in Denmans Lane and Tollgate Car parks showed very high demand during the day, with up to 100% occupancy observed. Surveys suggest there is overnight parking in both. Tollgate includes spaces reserved for the health centre and for adjacent flats. Do you have any ideas for what could be done to increase the efficiency of the car parks and help shoppers and service users access the village centre?

Although surveys were not undertaken in the Wilderness, multiple site visits suggest some demand, albeit lower during normal weekdays. The Common car parks often have space during a weekday, but experience spikes in demand when events take place nearby. Could longer stay users be encouraged to park in these car parks during the day freeing space for shoppers and service users?

**More generally, we would appreciate your feedback on the following subjects, posed as questions below:**

1. **Parking Challenges:** What difficulties do you and your residents, service users, staff, and visitors face when trying to park?
  - a. Is it difficult to find a parking space when needed?
  - b. Are the current restrictions too limiting (e.g., are maximum stay times too short)?
  - c. Are there specific issues for commuters, shoppers, residents, and local employees?
2. **Parking Discs:** Parking discs are hard to find, difficult for the District Council to enforce and manage, and costly to produce. This can discourage people from visiting the villages. What are your thoughts on these potential alternative solutions to achieve the same objectives:
  - a. Implementing "online" disc parking using the Council's current pay-by-mobile operator.
  - b. Installing terminals that issue free tickets stating the time limit.
  - c. Introducing pre-registration online for frequent users and others.
3. **Stricter Time Restrictions or Charges:** If stricter time restrictions or charges were introduced, what measures do you think would be needed to lessen the impact:
  - a. On different types of users, such as commuters, your employees, regular visitors, residents who use the car parks, shoppers, service users, and specific staff (e.g., teachers, doctors, administrators).
  - b. By offering specific products, such as free or discounted permits or overnight permits which allow a few hours either side for residents.
4. **Residents' Use of Car Parks:** Do you have any information or opinions on residents and their use of village or local car parks? For example:
  - a. Do many houses lack off-street parking?
  - b. Is there a concern that residents' use of car parks limits availability for other users during the day?

5. **Improving Car Park Efficiency:** Do you have any ideas on how to make the car parks more efficient and help more people find parking when they need it? For example:
- a. Removing special permit-only spaces.
  - b. Adjusting the balance between long-stay and short-stay parking bays.
  - c. Introducing reasonable charges to manage demand and encourage turnover.

We appreciate your time and thank you in advance for your help. Please send written responses to [REDACTED] by midday on Friday 21 February 2025.

If you would like to request an online meeting with your organisation or have any questions, please contact [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] who will be happy to arrange a convenient time for a discussion.

Kind Regards



Rob Anderton  
Assistant Director- Commercial Services and Contracts