



## **NEWPORT (Shropshire) TOWN COUNCIL**

The Guildhall, High St, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 7AR

Tel: 01952 814338

✉ [enquiries@newportsaloptowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@newportsaloptowncouncil.co.uk)

### **FAQ – Stafford Street, Newport - Short Stay Car Parks**

#### **What will change from the current arrangement?**

Currently, the whole of Stafford Street car park is not time limited so as long as vehicles are parked within the lined bay or display a blue badge if parked in a disabled bay vehicles can park unrestricted. The new arrangements will segregate the section of the car park closest to B&M to allow short stay parking only. The remainder of the car park will remain unrestricted.

The length of time you will be able to park in the short stay area will be 3 hours and you will not be able to return with 2 hours. You will be required to get a free parking ticket from one of the two parking machines located in the short stay section of the car park.

#### **Why is a short stay area being introduced?**

Parking in Newport is something that has been raised as a growing concern. Newport Town Council are aware that it is often difficult for those looking to come to Newport for a short duration to find a parking space. These new arrangements will look to try and encourage a turnover of vehicle and make it easier for a space to be found for those visiting Newport.

A similar scheme was introduced in Wellington recently and it has proven to be successful in freeing up short term parking.

#### **Why are the machines being installed on the short stay section of the car park?**

This arrangement will allow the Enforcement Officers to effectively manage this car park and monitor the three hour time limit. Without the free tickets, the only way to enforce is to take a record of tyre valve positions during two observations three hours apart— this means that a number of vehicles could exploit the time limits and therefore the turnover of vehicles would not be achieved. This is a positive step to ensure the vitality of Newport town centre is maintained.

#### **What do I have to do when parking on a Short stay car park?**

Once you have parked your vehicle in a lined bay, you will need to obtain a free ticket from the nearest parking machine by inputting your vehicle registration into the machines. You will then need to clearly display the ticket issued in your front windscreen and make a note of the time the free parking period expires. You will then be required to leave the car park before this time expired.

#### **Can I return to the car park after leaving?**

You are only able to return to the car park after a period of two hours after the expiry time on the ticket. For example, if you arrive at the car park at 10am, you are able to park for free until 1pm. At this time you must leave the car park and you will not be able to return until 3pm.



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### **What will happen if I try and get a ticket before this period?**

The machine will not issue a ticket for the same registration plate within the no return period. If an incorrect vehicle registration is used this would lead to a parking fine being issued by the Car Park Enforcement Officer.

### **Do I have to pay to park?**

No, parking is still free on all Council Owned car parks in Newport and there are no plans to introduce parking charges.

### **I have a Disability Blue Badge, does the 3 hour maximum stay still apply to me?**

If you have a valid blue badge, you will not be required to obtain a free parking ticket from the parking machine and there will be no restriction on the length of time you are permitted to park, so long as your blue badge is clearly on display.

We will be increasing the number of blue badge bays in the long stay area of the car park but will be reducing the amount in the short stay area slightly. However, over the two areas the number of spaces will remain the same.

### **What happens if I overstay the three hours?**

At the time of the Car Park Enforcement Officer patrolling the car park, any vehicle displaying a parking ticket that has expired will be issued with a parking fine (ECN). This also applies to vehicles not displaying a valid parking ticket at all or a ticket with an incorrect vehicle registration plate. Each ticket issued by the parking machine will show the vehicle registration and the expiry time so it will be clear to the Car Parking Enforcement Officer what time each vehicle should leave the car park.

### **I have received a Parking Fine, how much do I need to pay?**

The parking fine is £60 but if payment is made within 14 days from the date of issue then we will accept a reduced amount of £30. There is no reduced fee if a ticket has been issued for misusing a disabled bay, the fee will be £60.

### **What do I do if the machine is out of order?**

Call the telephone number on the noticeboard advising that there is an issue and if possible advise of the machine number which can be located on the parking machine. You will need to use the next available machine on the car park to obtain your ticket.

### **What are the enforcement hours on the short stay car park?**

The free parking tickets will be required between the hours of 9am and 6pm. Outside of these times, we will monitor the car parks to ensure vehicles are parked within lined bays only and blue badge bays are not being misused.



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## **What is an Excess Charge Notice (ECN)?**

Excess Charge Notice is the name given to a parking fine. They can be issued for various offences including, expired ticket, invalid ticket, misuse of blue badge bays, parking outside of a lined bay.

## **What do I do if I received a Parking Fine (ECN)?**

You will need to follow the steps detailed on the ECN issued. This will give you details on how you can pay the charge or appeal the charge if you feel you have been given the fine incorrectly.

## **What do I do if I feel I have received a parking fine incorrectly?**

You can appeal any fine received and can follow the information on the notice to do so. When appealing you should provide as much information and evidence as possible as to why you think the ticket issued should be revoked.

## **Are there any exemptions to the parking restrictions?**

This time limit applies to all users of the car park with the exception of blue badge holders.

## **What about the other car parks?**

Following the implementation of the changes in Stafford Street, we will be assessing the success of this approach and considering a way forward with the other car parks across Newport including New Street Car Park. An overall strategy for parking in Newport is being developed to ensure we are delivering improvements that achieves the best solution for residents, visitors, businesses, commuters and other visitors to the town.

## **What about on-street parking enforcement?**

Enforcement of all on-street parking remains the responsibility of West Mercia Police, however, Telford and Wrekin Council are currently considering the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement powers and have recently applied to the Department for Transport for these powers.