



Off Street Parking Report 2017



Introduction

The Traffic Management Act 2004 introduced a requirement for Enforcement Authorities to report on their parking enforcement activities on an annual basis. Runnymede Borough Council, under an agency agreement, carries out 'On Street' parking enforcement on behalf of the Highways Authority, Surrey County Council.

For these 'On Street' activities Surrey County Council is the Enforcement Authority and they will be producing a report to cover the activities, of the various Boroughs, carried out on their behalf.

The purpose of this report is to give information about the Borough car parks and the Enforcement activity carried out in those facilities.

Runnymede Borough Council operates 14 'Off Street' car parks most of which are operated under a 'Pay and Display' charging system. Enforcement Activity is undertaken in these car parks by directly employed Civil Enforcement Officers. The same officers carry out the enforcement of the 'on street' restrictions.

Borough pay and display car parks

Car Park	No of Spaces
Precinct Extension, Church Road, Egham	43
Waspe Farm, Station Road, Egham	119
Hummer Road, Egham	128
Victoria Street, Englefield Green	34
St. Jude's Road (Cemetery), Englefield Green	39
Memorial Gardens, Virginia Water	90
British Legion, Virginia Water	19
Bemonds, Heriot Road, Chertsey	55
Chertsey Library, Heriot Road, Chertsey	174
Gogmore Farm Park, Chertsey	53
Pooley Green	35
Woodlands	102
Homewood (Leisure)	70
Runnymede Pleasure Grounds, Windsor Road, Egham (Leisure)	352

Over the course of the last year the Council added some additional Pay and Display car parking into the British Legion car park in Virginia Water. Work is currently underway to increase the capacity of the Memorial car park, also in Virginia Water.

Removal of recycling facilities in Hummer Road, Egham and Chertsey Library car parks has freed up a small number of additional parking spaces in those facilities.

Homewood Park and Runnymede Pleasure Grounds are Leisure car parks which are supervised by the Parking Service department on behalf of Leisure Services.

Previously the pay and display facilities have been awarded the 'Park Mark', safer parking award operated by the British Parking Association. Although the Council has withdrawn from this scheme, due to the cost of maintaining membership, the Parking Services team does maintain the facilities to the standards required by that scheme.

All of the Council's town and village car parks are covered by CCTV operated 24 hours per day from the Safer Runnymede Control room.

The main objective of making charges in the car parks is to cover the costs of their maintenance, infrastructure and management, ensuring that the people using the facilities pay for them.

The secondary objective is to ensure that parking is available for people using the facilities in the town and villages by ensuring a turnover of spaces in the car parks. This is particularly important in the car parks supporting the shops in the town centres where most car parks are 'short stay' facilities.

The level of charges in the car parks is reviewed annually by the Council's Environment and Sustainability Committee. The Committee balances the charges at a level that maximises the income, without deterring visitors, which could affect the viability and vitality of the town and villages in the Borough. A comparison with charges from comparable car parks in adjoining Boroughs is always made as part of this process. Runnymede is consistently at the lower end of charges levied as it has to compete with the neighbouring larger shopping centres of Staines and Woking.

The Environment and Sustainability Committee decided to increase the charge for car parking at its meeting in November 2016. This increase was implemented in April 2017 and coincided with the introduction of the new £1 coins.



Parking Charges

Two levels of charges operate in the Borough. One for Town Centres and one for the Villages and sites away from the main town centres. The current charges are shown below.

<u>Town Centre Charges</u>		<u>Out of Town charges</u>	
1 hour	£1.00	1 hour	40p
1-2 hours	£2.00	1-2 hours	80p
2-3 hours	£3.00	2-3 hours	£1.50
3-4 hours	£3.50	3-4 hours	£2.50
4-5 hours	£4.00	4-5 hours	£3.00
All day	£6.50	All day	£5.00

Pay By Phone

In February last year the Council changed its pay by phone provider to RingGo. This is an increasingly popular method of paying for parking charges. Applications are available for i-phone and Android devices. Once registered it is possible to book parking sessions, in any RingGo car park, with ease. Fifty one percent of all day parking stays in the Borough are now paid for using the RingGo system.



Enforcement activities

The Borough employs uniformed Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) to patrol and enforce on and off street parking matters throughout the Borough. As well as ensuring the charging regime in the car parks is complied with, the staff members also help to ensure that any defects, or other issues affecting the car parks, are reported and rectified. The Officers are all trained to nationally recognised standards and receive refresher training when necessary. The Officers are equipped with body worn CCTV facilities to enhance their safety and provide an accurate recording, to an evidential standard, of incidents they are involved in.

Penalty Charge Notices



Vehicles appearing to be parked in contravention of the Off Street Parking Order can be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) which is normally attached to the vehicle or handed to the driver by the CEO. The level of the charges, set by central government, is currently £50 for a lower level contravention, and £70 for a higher level contravention. The charges can be settled at a reduced charge of £25, or £35, respectively if paid within 14 days of issue.

The level of the charge is designed to reflect the severity of the contravention. For example if someone was to remain in the car park for a longer period than they had paid for then they would receive a lower level charge. Those who park in a disabled person's bay, when not holding the appropriate badge, which is considered to be a more serious contravention, would receive a higher level charge.

Once a PCN has been issued, the driver can challenge the issue of the notice with the Council. Trained members of the Parking Services Team will consider the circumstances and any mitigation given by the driver. While the challenge is being considered the case will be placed on hold so that, even if the challenge is rejected, the motorist can still settle the matter at the reduced charge.

When a challenge is made and rejected, or no payment made, the owner of the vehicle is sent a 'Notice to Owner'. This is the driver's opportunity to make formal representations against the issue of the Penalty Charge Notice. Consideration of these representations is carried out by the Parking Services Manager. Should the representations be rejected a driver then has an opportunity to appeal against that decision to the Traffic Penalty Tribunal. This is an independent body where Adjudicators will consider the case and whose decision is binding on both the Council and the Motorist.

The Council is a participant in the new Fast On-Line Appeal Management system which allows for the paperless submission of appeals to the Tribunal. This system is considerably faster than the old formal system and will reduce postage and copying charges significantly.

Customer Survey

During the summer a customer survey was undertaken in the car parks. This involved the distribution of questionnaires to vehicle in the Borough car parks.

57% of respondents thought the car park charges were reasonable or acceptable.

82% thought security was good or acceptable

88% thought lighting was very good or acceptable

82% thought cleanliness was good or acceptable

85% thought disabled access was good or acceptable

Penalty Charge Notice Statistics

The Traffic Management Act requires the provision of certain statistics in relation to Penalty Charge Notices

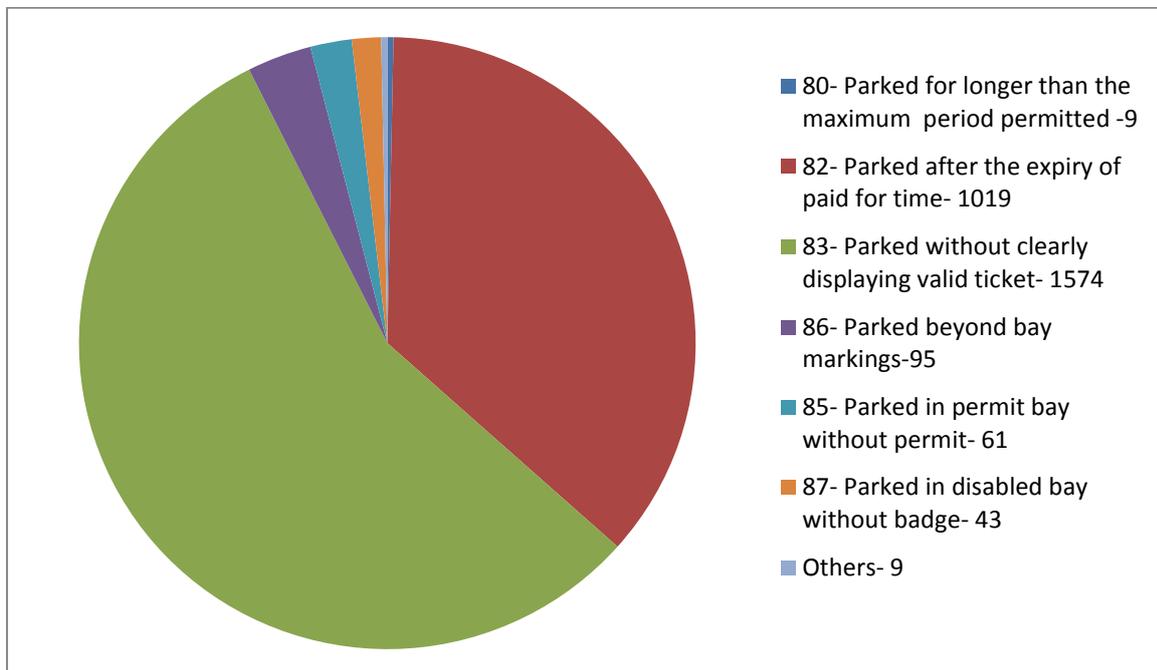
OFF STREET PARKING

Total Number of PCNs issued	2810
Number of CEOs employed	1.5
Number of higher level PCNs issued	107
Number of lower level PCNs issued	2703
Number paid at discount	1798
Number paid at full (or above)	300
Total Number of PCNs paid	2098
Number of PCNs against which formal or informal reps made	649

Number of PCNS cancelled as a result of formal or informal reps	335
Number of PCNs cancelled for other reasons	342
Number of PCNs written off	35
Number of Vehicles immobilised	0
Number of vehicles removed.	0

Reasons for the issue of PCNs in car parks

The reasons that Penalty Charge Notices were issued in the car parks together with their contravention codes



Financial

The expenditure in relation to the car parks covers their physical upkeep, equipment, disposables, staffing in relation to the Parking Services Department and the Enforcement activities.

Most income is from parking charges and permits. Any surplus is used to support other Council services.

Gross Expenditure £384,770

Gross Income £726,429

Net Surplus £341.659

This concludes the Off Street Parking report. For further information please contact the Parking Services Team at parking@runnymede.gov.uk

Or telephone 01932 838383

Mervyn Robins, Parking Services Manager, Runnymede Borough Council

11th October 2017