

COUNCIL – 16 DECEMBER 2020

NOTICES OF MOTION

Submitted to Council in Accordance with paragraph 1.34 of the Council Procedural Rules

1 20's PLENTY IN 2020

Proposed by Councillor S Akers Smith and seconded by Councillor J Barber

Cheshire East is a caring council, where the needs of residents come first. 20mph speed limits improve quality of life, helping to create places where walking, cycling, conversations and playing are prioritised over vehicle traffic.

20mph speed limits are supported by many bodies including the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health, Alzheimer's Society, Cycling UK, World Health Organisation, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Transition Towns and cities, towns and parish councils and community groups.

30mph speed limit was created in 1934 and has never been reviewed, despite a significant increase in number of vehicles from 1.5 million to 40 million. The speed and weight of vehicles kills 5 people every day in the UK, which prevents people from feeling safe walking and cycling.

Reducing the default speed limit to 20mph on most urban and residential roads except where it is safe and compatible with community needs for it to be 30mph, will encourage parents to allow their children to walk and cycle to school, creates safety for those using mobility aids and the partially sighted and will help many people feel safer cycling on the roads because lower speeds make the environment feel safer. This change will also reduce congestion, improve air quality and improve the fitness of the borough's residents, as well as improve the economies of town centres by making them nicer places for people to want to spend time in.

In 2019 Cheshire East Council committed to fight climate change and implementing a default 20mph speed limit in areas where there is a mix of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists will help us achieve this. I urge councillors to make a real change to their communities and vote in support of this much needed Motion and join 21million other people in this country who have adopted the same policy, a default 20mph in central, urban and residential areas across the borough, unless where it is safe and compatible with community needs for it to be 30mph.

The Motion for "20's Plenty in 2020" asks Council to resolve to lend its support to:

1. The principle of introducing a default 20mph speed limit in central, urban and residential roads (these to be formally agreed in line with the law and the Council's decision-making arrangements) - not a blanket measure.

2. Consideration of the practicalities and timescales of introducing such a scheme in consultation with the Director of Highways and Infrastructure, and the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste, with formal consideration by the appropriate decision-making body/bodies, as early as possible in 2021.
3. Working with Cheshire police to help maintain compliance, once such arrangements are established.
4. Working with town and parish councils and the community, collaboratively and financially, to achieve the objectives of this Notice of Motion.

2 Support for Town Centres over Christmas and New Year

Proposed by Councillor J Clowes and seconded by Councillor S Gardiner

We propose that this Council support the cessation of car park charges on all Cheshire East Council-owned car parks that directly serve the Borough's Towns, Market Town and principal Service Centres for the period:

- To commence from 3rd December 2020 when current Covid-19 restrictions are lifted (or whichever date in December is permitted, whereby compliance with national and local Covid-19 restrictions may be achieved).
- The car park charges respite period to end at the end of business on 17th January 2021.

This action will provide the Borough's town centre traders with an essential and welcome boost once the current lockdown ends, whilst also encouraging Cheshire East Residents to "Shop Local".

Covid-19 has had an immense impact on businesses, families and individuals, and despite significant Government support for businesses throughout the pandemic, our wider economy now and in the longer term, is dependent on ensuring our SMEs are able to maintain trading. Too many Cheshire East businesses are struggling to weather the Covid storm and if they fail, the potential associated loss of business rates, redundancies and rising demand (and costs) for Council services must be an important consideration for this Council, at what is normally the busiest time of year for town centre traders.

Nonetheless, it is fully understood that there will be a financial cost in relation to this proposal at a time when this Council is experiencing significant financial pressure. In light of this, it is suggested that:

- 1) Only Cheshire East-owned car parks that directly serve the Borough's Towns, Market Town and principal Service Centres be included in the scheme.
- 2) That the 'free-parking' offer is restricted to specific times.

For example:

- Shropshire County Council has launched a free parking initiative between 11am and 6.00pm from 3rd December to 17th January 2021.⁽¹⁾
- Trafford Council has already launched a 'Free after Three' initiative that runs from Monday to Saturday. The scheme commenced on 16th November and runs through to the 11th January 2021.⁽²⁾

Ordinarily, Cheshire East Council could expect to receive approximately £385,000.00 in car park fees over a four-week period.⁽³⁾ (This reflects the period proposed with Bank Holidays and Sundays excluded). This potential loss would be further mitigated by:

- the implementation of a scheme that adheres to specific times when the offer will be in place.
- the exclusion of non-town centre / service centre car parks from the scheme.
- the Council would still be able to claim back from Government, any loss of car park income on those car parks that are NOT included in the scheme.

This Council's support of economic activity during this critical period in the run-up to Christmas and January Sales is vital and as such, the removal of car parking charges in the ways so ably demonstrated by our Local Authority neighbours in Shropshire and Trafford, should be viewed as an investment, with a monetary and social value for Cheshire East Residents and Businesses that far outweighs any loss of car park income during this short period.

References:

(1) <https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2020/11/free-parking/#:~:text=Free%20parking%20in%20Shropshire%20Council%20car%20parks%20from%203%20December%20to%2017%20January,-Related%20topics%3A%20Coronavirus&text=Parking%20will%20be%20free%20from,once%20the%20current%20lockdown%20ends.>

(2) <https://www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/news/articles/2019/20191111-Free-after-3-parking-returns-to-aid-Christmas-shoppers.aspx>

(3) <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/car-parks-and-parking/car-park-income-summary-2017-to-2020.pdf>

3 Bullying is Unacceptable in Cheshire East

Proposed by Councillor J Parry

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly, tolerant and safe environment for all of our communities so they can participate in positive work, learning, social activity and enjoy a happy retirement. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable for anyone here in Cheshire East.