



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr John Boyce,
Leader – Oadby & Wigston Borough Council
Letter sent by email

6th September 2021

Dear John,

Further to the confirmation that parking charges will be introduced across Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston, I've been approached by a number of concerned residents and businesses. Like them, I have a range of concerns and questions and would be grateful if you could please assist by providing responses to the below.

- 1) The press release and FAQs refer to current annual costs incurred of £282,080 on carparks upkeep. Can you please provide a clear break-down of these costs, as this differs to the £157,546 figure I've seen for this?
- 2) Your press release states 380 responses were received, and that you have tried to make amendments that address as many of the concerns as possible. In light of this, can you please confirm:
 - a) How many of these responses advocated a permit scheme in the same way the Council is implementing?
 - b) What amendments were actually made, in light of the concerns raised?
- 3) Presumably the Council has carried out modelling and forecasting work as to the impact. Can you please confirm:
 - a) How many people you expect to purchase these shopping permits, and total revenue this will raise?
 - b) Total revenue you expect to take from casual pay and display tickets?
 - c) Costs of implementation, including installation costs and all ongoing monitoring and enforcement costs?
 - d) What methodology underpins this modelling work and who was consulted in this exercise to arrive at these figures?

And finally, and just as importantly as the actual scheme itself:

- 4) Why has it been decided that such a seismic change for the entire Borough, will not be put to a final vote before the democratically elected Councillors? While I understand a paper to consult on options was approved in March, surely it is important to put the final proposals to Councillors, if there have been changes as a result of this consultation.

Given your press release comments about making amendments in light of the consultation comments received, it would suggest that anything put before Councillors back in March is no longer valid – unless it is the case that not a single change was made to the scheme looked at previously and being proposed now? Please confirm the exact position here as it is clearly not possible for both scenarios to be true. Either changes have been made or they haven't.

Given the prominence 'free parking' had in the campaign literature of many of the Councillors elected in 2019, it will leave a bitter taste in the mouths of many residents and businesses to see such an important change that will have a considerable impact across the Borough, not being put to a final vote before those Councillors elected to represent them.

I urge you to reconsider and give Councillors the final say. If you have confidence in the process the Council has followed and the outcome this exercise has arrived at, I trust you will have the confidence to put this to a vote of your own Councillors. I am undertaking my own survey which has approximately 900 responses so far, which I look forward to sharing with you soon.

I look forward to your early response to these important questions.

Yours sincerely,

Neil O'Brien MP

Member of Parliament for Harborough, Oadby and Wigston

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