

I am writing this email with the knowledge of my Parish Priest Fr. Pat English who is also concerned about the new proposals. The Catholic Church does have a small car park but the Congregation also have to use the main car park whilst attending Sunday services.

I have read the proposed car parking charges approved by the Cabinet to increase the cost in Shropshire. I am appalled that once again you are proposing to introduce a charge for Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Wem is a small town with all the small shops and businesses, except for the Coop supermarket, run by independent owners. Our town should never have been included in those who have to pay to park but it was the will of the ruling party that it should be included. Wem, unlike the other towns in North Shropshire, does not have a viable Tourist attraction, like the Canals or the Meres, or National enterprises to encourage people to shop here. It is reliant on very hard working independent traders to keep the economy viable.

To charge for parking on a Sunday is a charge on people who attend one of the 4 Wem urban churches . There are no shops or businesses open on a Sunday except for the Coop and the majority of those who park on the main car park are those who are attending Sunday Worship. Why has this not been taken into account and discussed as happened the first time car parking charges were introduced, in I believe 2018?

I would like a detailed breakdown of how much it will cost to alter the existing machines to the new charges and how much it will cost for officers to be employed (at Double time I presume) to monitor the car park. I would also like to know what the car parking income is for Wem's car parks.

I really think you need to reconsider introducing these new charges as Wem is a town that tries to help itself and is being penalised for doing this. The town is so close to Shrewsbury's out of town stores that it puts the existing business at a disadvantage.

This was recognised by the West Midlands Regional Assembly, Advantage West Midlands, Shropshire County Council and North Shropshire District Council in the 1980's and 90's. Nothing has changed except that more of the local services, e.g. Wem Town Hall Community Trust, the Swimming Pool and Sports facilities rely on grants from the Wem Town Council community charge payers. Examples of the local Town Council and Urban residents helping themselves.

Kind regards

Pauline Dee BEM