

Appendix 2: Conversion of free to paid parking in St Albans: Free Text and Email responses

- This appendix contains the representations relating to the proposed modifications between 11 November and 01 December 2024 made in the free text portion of the online survey, as well as emails received by the council in response to the proposed changes within this period.
- Sensitive data has been redacted to protect the privacy of respondents, however some traceable information may still present. Please review this content with discretion and ensure compliance with confidentiality guidelines.

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TABLE 1: Consultation Responses

I disagree with the proposed changes as it would impact our independent shops which often rely on short trips made by people who will only make the journey in their car
Paid parking on the Harpenden high street will inevitably affect the foot fall to local businesses as well as become an additional levy on parents collecting their children from primary schools and nurseries in the town centre.
<p>Harpenden is not a city centre or tourist hot spot, but a local community. The area in question contains two out of three GP surgeries, at least two dental surgeries, five churches, two schools, our library, salvation army, fitness studios.... This area is more akin to Marshalswick where nobody is suggesting charges. This is where we live, not visit. If parking needs rationing it should not be based on wealth, but should be available to all residents regardless of wealth. My decisions on whether to drive, cycle or walk into the centre are driven purely by weather, timing and what needs to be carried or worn, this will have no effect. This may have the beneficial effect of driving cars to the car parks instead of trawling around looking for spaces, however, to achieve the car parks need to at least match the on street free periods. The economic effect will be to extract wealth out of the St Albans City and District as the costs will be spent outside the community and probably outside the country, it will also reduce the disposable income of the local community affecting the prosperity of the local community and businesses. This action is not in keeping with the local community and I doubt would ever be chosen by the residents.</p> <p>Regarding the specific proposals:</p> <p>I do not see any provision for motorcycle and scooter parking, or clarity of the charges applicable, although this would reduce congestion, pollution and carbon footprint.</p> <p>Parking restrictions in Avenue St Nicks should stop earlier, there is no logic to preventing parking until 10:30.</p>
I remain very concerned about the stress on those parking to complete their errands in the allocated time and the reduction in numbers using our local shops and cafes due to the extra expense. The cost will fall disproportionately on those who need a car as they are less mobile.
<p>Various reason I think this is a bad idea:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current parking means that it allows people to just use a parking space for an hour, which means a good flow of available parking. 2. It is going to add financial burden on parents whom need to drop children at school. If the parking can be booked for a longer than an hour, then it will result in less available parking. 3. Having costly parking (the highest in Hertfordshire) will reduce the footfall in Harpenden town centre and spending less (as walking will mean that will carry less - therefore spend less). 4. Having a price to parking may just push more people to out of town shopping centres and spending less time in Harpenden. <p>The net effect will most likely mean that local streets will then become more busy and upset local residents / incur more cost to add parking places, costs to upkeep road quality etc.</p>
I do not agree to the times and charges proposed for parking. I think a period of free time should be provided for up to one hour to allow for drop offs and pick ups and people collecting prescriptions, using the post office etc where you will have to wait for some time. This will detrimentally affect local businesses in Harpenden.
The proposal will negatively impact businesses in and around Harpenden High Street. With some of the most expensive parking in Hertfordshire and the surrounding commuter towns already, removing what little free and short term parking there is in the town will further degrade the appeal of the town centre to shoppers and visitors as well as make life difficult for residents who cannot walk or cycle into the town. The proposal of removing all free/short term parking in this area is bad enough, but to then charge £2.50 per hour for the new system is just plain greedy, and WILL have a negative impact on businesses in the town. Tring - for example - has 30 minutes free parking, £1.10 for up to 2 hours and up to 10 hours for £2.40!
<p>These changes will be wholly damaging to the shops in Harpenden, in particular the independents. People will shop less frequently and spend less time in town. They will also choose not to go for lunch because of the added, extortionate, cost of parking. The proposed costs of parking will be the highest across Hertfordshire.</p> <p>In addition to this, the proposed parking charges on London Road in St Albans will have a huge impact on workers in those businesses. For some they little to no parking off road. This means members of staff are going to need to pay to park all day which will be upward of £20 per day. An extortionate daily cost given the current financial climate.</p>
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Wholeheartedly disagree - will kill off the town centre.
Against the proposals
<p>1. Why have you made it so difficult to respond to the amendment? This does not feel like you are behaving democratically! No doubt it is so you can say less people responded and therefore by default that means people are happy with the amendments. However, if less people have responded then its probably due to the fact that you have made it extremely difficult to find where to respond.</p> <p>2. Your new change now means we have less "free parking" in harpenden than the original proposal. So I dont' think you have listened and you have no intention of not charging residents for parking.</p> <p>3. Nobody who lives or works in Harpenden including the town council wants to be charged for parking, you will kill a vibrant high street. Why are you not listening to our own council? I thought we were meant to be a democracy not a cash cow for St Albans poorly managed unaudited spending plans.</p>
I strongly oppose St Albans council taking away Harpenden's free parking. For the reasons above and the reasons I gave the first time I responded to this consultation.

This will kill the high street, and with the cost of living this seems highly inappropriate, there is limited parking as it is
I strongly object to this proposal. I've owned a business on the High street for 28 years and know my business and clients well enough to know this will have a terrible affect on our shops and the town centre.
Fully support - the limited free parking should be structured to benefit those who most need to use it.
<p>General</p> <p>The current provision of limited time, but free, on-street spaces helps to support a vibrant town centre, and enable residents to 'pop into town' for all sorts of amenities without facing the cost and inconvenience of parking payment systems. The introduction of the proposed paid spaces will inevitably have an adverse impact on the local economy as residents such as us reduce visits into our town or go elsewhere.</p> <p>The requirement to make daily small transactions using P&D machines would bring additional inconvenience and would require unsightly street furniture to be installed in our relatively uncluttered High Street.</p> <p>Residents Permits</p> <p>If we have to have paid parking I would urge SADC to consider converting all the proposed paid spaces to a "Residents and P&D" zone, with all Harpenden households being eligible to purchase permits. At present I am free to use any of the spaces, (up to the maximum time period) and I would propose that the residents permits would simply replicate that arrangement. There should therefore be no change to useage , but it would avoid the need for multiple minor transactions.</p> <p>Payment Systems</p> <p>Any on-street payment system must be able to accept payment by coins or card. Many people such as myself will not trust parking 'apps' which allow a third party to hold our personal credit card details. In addition there is no univeral parking 'app' - so one would need multiple apps for the various different providers of paring in the area. I presume there would be no need for a motorist to use a payment machine if they are only staying for the free period.</p> <p>Disabled Spaces</p> <p>The Blue Badge scheme provides an important service for those who need it. However, the provision of free disabled spaces alongside paid spaces will increase the incentive for abuse and could adversely affect the availability of spaces for the very people who need it most.</p> <p>Disabled people need ACCESS, not SUBSIDY. They are eligible for various grants and allowances and do not need to be indirectly subsidised further through the parking budget.</p>
Sent an email with detail of objection
Ridiculous idea - just money making
I have been a resident of Harpenden for 28 years, and the existing parking model works for residents. Where possible residents choose to walk into the centre, just observe the footfall along Southdown Road. When necessary (i.e. for a weekly food shop) residents may need to drive and park in centre, perfectly acceptable. The lack of parking is already a sufficient deterrent to encourage those able to walk to do so. The introduction of charges is a money grab to cover the mismanagement of council tax proceeds, and will disproportionately impact those on low incomes.
<p>I wholly object to bringing in parking charges in Harpenden town centre where it is currently free. This will be bad for the High Street, bad for businesses and bad for residents. It will put people off coming to the town centre and reduce footfall at a time when businesses are already struggling.</p> <p>There are no viable public transport alternatives to get to the town centre and shop from most parts of Harpenden. I am 75 and have lived in Harpenden for 45 years. There is no public transport from where I live to the town centre and I can't ride a bike to the shops. St Albans is ignoring the result of the first consultation, where 95% objected and 90% wholly objected.</p> <p>Harpenden shops are seeing their costs rise and this is the worst possible time to do something like this. 30 minutes is not long enough to do a shop, let alone visit a couple of shops.</p>
This scheme will lead to loss of income for local businesses and increased congestion and pollution as drivers are likely to do more journeys
I object to the new parking proposal. Building a new car park at bowers way would be a far better solution.
<p>I object to this proposal as it relates to Harpenden for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The current situation allows easy access to the shops and services of Harpenden and the 1-2 hour limit ensures there is a flow in and out of spaces so I am always able to find a spot. If all places were up to 2 hours I would be reluctant to go into town in case all the spaces were gone. 2) I do not object to paying for parking but many people will and will be put off coming into town. 3) Parking and payment is likely to be via a mobile phone app, so if people are unable to use such an app, for example because of physical or mental disability, or either choose not to own a smartphone (often the case among the elderly) or cannot afford a smartphone, then these populations are excluded from parking which is unfair and discriminatory. 4) If a mobile phone app is being used then there is a reliance on a full battery, a good mobile signal, and the possibility of both technical issues with software and cyber security risks. <p>For all these reasons I believe the proposals would be detrimental to Harpenden High Street, limiting the number of people who could and would access shops and services. This reduction in numbers and the inclusivity issues are likely to adversely affect businesses and services possibly leading to potential business closures and perhaps opening the way for more global businesses that can withstand a lower level of business to the exclusion of the local and independent shops/businesses that we all enjoy and frequent now.</p> <p>Additionally this proposal lacks transparency around how much projected income would be generated by the proposal and how it is proposed that the income be used.</p>
Object
As a resident of Redbourn, I am reliant on the shopping facilities of Harpenden. If the parking charges are applied, then I will be forced to shift my focus to "out of town" shopping centres/retail parks, which takes trade/income away from local businesses. There is very little to public transport to get to/from Harpenden, and that there is, is infrequent and is subject to cancellation/delay. I largely avoid shopping in St Albans for the same reason - most of the free parking in the city centre was removed some years ago, and the public transport is unreliable. I appreciate that the council is short of funding, primarily due to the actions of central government, but I would prefer a small increase in the council tax charge to the application of paid street parking in Harpenden.

<p>This proposal has significant adverse distributional impacts as defined by HM Government Department for Transport. It is an effective reduction in accessibility to services for vulnerable groups in Harpenden who would perceive it as an increase in the baseline affordability of travel and deter travel, to the detriment of their wellbeing. From an economic point of view, it will impact businesses through reducing footfall. I would strongly suggest that if SADC want's to increase parking revenue from Harpenden, that they actually enforced the existing parking restrictions and deal with the congestion that this causes.</p>
<p>I feel this will have a negative impact on our high street , as a small business I am very concerned.</p>
<p>This will just drive Harpenden residents to shop nearby where they can still get free parking , eg Welwyn Garden City , numerous retail parks , Watford has 3 hours free parking in Tesco or Brent Cross</p>
<p>I totally oppose this proposal as it will not benefit Harpenden businesses or residents . It will just force residents to change their shopping habits to online or other nearby towns where you can still get free parking . I pass several retail parks and shopping centres on my way home from work so ,rather than pay to park in Harpenden ,I will just use those instead regrettably ,as it is easier for me . As the current parking restrictions are not properly enforced I do not see how half hour free parking is going to be ? Where are all the extra traffic wardens coming from or are we paying for them to try and raise more for the council ? This is just another stealthy way of getting the parking proposition passed , it will be like the residents parking scheme which the cost has soared in recent years, by unfairly raising the permit costs by using emissions as a way to charge residents more if they don't have an electric car ,despite a large proportion of the roads included in the scheme being unable to have charging points at home as we are not guaranteed a space outside our houses .</p>
<p>I wholeheartedly object to the new and any parking charges in Harpenden. The responses of the residents have not been listened to. This will kill an already struggling high street and put small businesses out of business. Parking restrictions were the death of St Albans high street. Please do not this to Harpenden</p>
<p>Parking charges are too expensive for young families and the elderly. High Street businesses will also be adversely affected.</p>
<p>The introduction of parking charges for on-street parking in Harpenden would have a huge detrimental effect on our local shops which are already struggling. The proposed charges are also far too high!</p>
<p>I strongly object to the proposals to impose a tax on the residents of Harpenden by raising car parking charges , reducing the number of parking spaces and reducing the length of time residents are able to park without charge. The changes will impact greatly on businesses and also residents using local services such as Doctors, Dentists and Pharmacies. It discourages use of the local Library . It will result in less people using the town center and ultimately a reduction in revenue to the Council as businesses will close.</p>
<p>The Proposed parking policy for Harpenden is totally unacceptable, it will kill the town and shops! 30mins is no time at all especially if if you include having to unload a buggy say, or load shopping. It is not long enough to do anything, going to the Post Office is not even possible given the waiting time etc. It will kill the shops, the coffee shops, everything.</p>
<p>Please rethink imposing charging for on street parking in Harpenden. Business especially will suffer from such proposals</p>
<p>An absolute disgrace this is even being considered let alone at consultation stage</p>
<p>St Albans Council should be ashamed of themselves</p>
<p>Reject proposal. It'll have a knock on effect on the already busy high street and affect the shops.</p>
<p>This 'update' is no more than tweaking the original proposal. This will still deter people from using the Town Centre to the detriment of the shopkeepers, restaurants, etc. thus killing the High Street. This proposal should be withdrawn and leave the parking as it is as it works well.</p>

I strongly object to SADC's proposed parking scheme for Harpenden town centre.

Having lived here for over 30 years I know that if you implement the scheme as it stands it will have a devastating impact upon both residents and businesses in the town - businesses will fail and residents will no longer enjoy going into the centre - it will lose it's community feel.

I am astonished that no proper formal Impact Assessment has been undertaken - instead we are informed that you 'feel the right balance has been struck'. This is gambling with the town's future on a hunch rather than doing a data-driven proper assessment of what the likely effects will be if you suddenly impose restrictions on how long people will be able to park for free.

This is all the more surprising when the same council spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on employing consultants to advise them on whether or not to buy a row of shops - which in the end they did not.

Surely, when the future of so many businesses are at stake and with so much opposition to the scheme SADC should listen. There is no evidence that the first consultation was meaningful - so small were the changes to the proposed scheme. Ten minutes longer to one permitted stay, whilst at the same time completely removing 5 bays from public use does not constitute a meaningful change to the plan and indicates that the vast majority of feedback has simply been ignored. Business owners have collected detailed data on footfall and have questioned shoppers - why is the council not doing a similar data-driven analysis or indeed listening more to the residents and shopkeepers.

SADC claims that a District Council is better for the people than a Unitary Council because they'll be more 'in-touch' with what the people want and the community. It doesn't feel like that right now. SADC is refusing to liaise with Harpenden Town Council on this scheme - this doesn't make sense to me. HTC has some very good people on it - why not work together and come up with something that isn't going to spoil the town?

Additionally - if parking was enforced properly this would clearly generate additional revenue - we hardly ever see a traffic warden in Harpenden. Why not try doing this as a first step? Please do not proceed with the scheme as it stands.

Firstly, many customers are saying the consultation site wasn't working or they couldn't work out how to respond. Part of your analysis should be to look at how many aborted attempts there were, as the strength of response will have been diluted by this very complicated and glitchy system.

And secondly, once again the consultation was conducted online, thereby excluding anyone who isn't comfortable with technology which is discriminatory to those more vulnerable in society.

Now onto the modifications:

1. 9am start time. There are town centre schools that don't start until 8.55 so parents will still not be able to drop off and pick up their children for free. A 9.30 start could be an option. But frankly the 1 x 30 mins free session is just petty and pointless. 30 mins free every time you park (with a no return within ..)wouldn't make much difference to revenue and would be so much more simple for people to understand and for signage. Gosling Sports Centre is currently in parking chaos with it's 1 x 30 mins free parking per day session. It can be split up and used 15 mins first and then 15 mins later, would this be the case in Harpenden? And if not, or if so, how complicated will the sign need to be to explain all the different permutations?

2. 30 mins free parking instead of 40 mins (2 x 20 mins). Nowhere in your report did I see that anyone responding to the consultation asked for even less free parking?! But

30 mins is a more practical amount of time than 20. But 1 hr would be much better in terms of not damaging businesses.

3. Changing 5 bays on Leyton Green to resident parking. Why? You haven't explained any need for this or given any evidence and it contradicts your initial statement that no parking would be lost. Presumably these flats were purchased without parking so it seems a very big leap to give away value, and needed, Harpenden resources to them.

4. In the first consultation you weren't aware that there were loading bays outside Threads. Now that you are, they still haven't been reinstated on the map? Why is this? They are well used and needed, and there will be traffic chaos without them if all the vans are just sitting in the road.

5. In your response to the last consultation you said there was no evidence that introducing parking charges will reduce footfall and affect business. We have provided you with evidence in a survey from Threads customers that footfall could drop by over 35%. This is actual customers telling us what the impact on their behaviour will be so shouldn't be ignored. Additionally, all the residents responding to the consultation is evidence. And why on earth would council's all round the country, including Medway, Shropshire, Wrexham, Herefordshire, Colchester, Bolton, Cheshire, Royston and Buntingford run incentives like 'Free after 3pm' to encourage shoppers if Free parking is unrelated to footfall? Saying there is no evidence means you are willfully and recklessly ignoring it and behaving in a way that is not fitting in public office. By all means argue your case, but please do so with integrity.

I strongly object to these proposals .

I have seen the impact first hand to businesses in Berkhamsted and St Albans that charges like this have .

I also why question why Harpenden will have the most expensive charges in Hertfordshire?

It appears this website form has been design to be extremely unaccessible for completing which in itself is extremely disingenuous and it appears to be strategically designed to minimise the number of objections raised. I wholeheartedly disagree with the proposed plans. If implemented I will not visit Harpenden town centre for grocery shopping any more, instead I will visit the retail parks in Luton where parking is free. I think many shops in Harpenden will shut because of this change.

The proposals have been ill thought through and the rationale for change does not stand up to scrutiny. A major reason that the problem that this proposal seeks to resolve is that the existng parking regulations and restrictions are not enforced.

As a regular visitor to the high street in Harpenden it is clear that the two hour parking retrictions are not enforced there are a number of cars that I can readily identify tat remained parked in restricted areas for the whole day. If financial shortfalls are identified in this area of the budget enforcement of existing regulations should be the first priority. Placing further restrictions on existing residents to make up for the councils mismanagement of the current position is not acceptable.

It would be better if the introduction of parking charges in the proposed areas of Harpenden Town Centre where there is currently free parking only applied after 1 hour. I live locally and often go to the town centre for shopping and to make use of the other amenities. For example, I might go a supermarket and then for a coffee. Sometimes I might wander around the smaller shops and pop into one and buy something on the spur of the moment. If I have to pay to spend time in the town centre it is likely I will reduce the amount of time I spend there and consequently the amount of money I spend in the local shops and coffee shops. If other locals have the same reaction, it could be damaging to a number of smaller businesses. I am therefore concerned about the effect the introduction of certain parking charges will have on local businesses, which may find it more difficult to survive. Footfall in them may reduce and more people may turn to more online shopping instead. The town would be worse off as a result. I have sympathy with charging after a certain time though, and think only charging after 1 hour of free parking would potentially reduce the impact of the current proposals on local businesses.

I wholly object to this proposal and the way it is being steamrolled in by the Council. Putting charges in place is going to reduce the viability of shops, cafes, and restaurants throughout the town. It is going to make people who work in these businesses and schools pay out more from their wages adding to the other measures being taken which will disproportionately affect lower paid workers.

I have been told that the equipment for this scheme had already been ordered prior to the first consultation, which if true seems an odd way to manage a proposal such as this. Efforts should be made to make economies in Council spending; recently I saw 3 operatives operating drain cleaning - job that can quite adequately be done by two people, road repairs in Long Buftlers was ridiculous - some 5 or more visits this year each time doing a little bit more leaving some for the return visit. So economies can be made to offset the alleged parking losses being made by Council.

So, I believe the proposals are harmful to our local economy and are a soft target to get the Council income to cover inefficiencies.

Whatever happened to DEMOCRACY ? There is not a single Resident, shopkeeper, business, office, hospital or surgery in the whole town that wants parking charges introduced in Harpenden in any shape or form of any kind. The Town Coubcil does not want charges inteoduced, and yet we are having parking charges foisted upon us by complete outsiders in St Albans by a Lib Dem Council that is not listening to the very people who voted them in. If nobody in Harpenden wants charges to be introduced why are they not being listened to ? I think it is a total affront to democracy by the Lib Dems. They could have shown real leadership and earned the ternal admiration of the electorate had they listened to Harpenden residents and supported them in their opposition to parking charges. Instead I suspect some of them won't survive beyond nexy May.

On a practical note 30 minutes free parking is not enough - please raise it to a minimum of 1 hour.

This response is submitted on behalf of Harpenden Town Council. The Town Council:

Strongly objects to the modified proposals given the significant concerns regarding the impact on Local Businesses and the wider community.

Strongly objects to the introduction of any paid parking in the High Street.

Strongly recommends SADC deliver their four needs set out in the SoR through a) an alternative proposal of allowing 1hr free parking, with no return within 1 hour, and no option to remain longer than 1hr and b) through a more rigorous approach to enforcement.

The changes since the last proposal do not address the core issue and why the majority of respondents and HarpendenTown Council were against these plans. SADC have acknowledged that the vast majority of respondents considered that this move would damage the prosperity of the high street but have merely stated they disagree without evidence.

The change to the start time for restrictions may make it slightly easier at the beginning of the day but what about the end of the school day? 30 mins is not necessarily long enough for a school pick up if you've got to allow time to find a parking space, walk from the parking to school whilst ensuring you are there at least on time and then deal with children coming out of school, any necessary interaction with staff and getting back to the car.

Personally I currently pop into the town centre during a lunch hour, or when I have free time during the day to utilise local businesses (barbers, post office, library, shops ...), having to pay or worry about getting back to the car within 30 mins will push me elsewhere - I'll save up these errands for when I'm out elsewhere on weekends or evenings removing the patronage from local businesses. The fact that charges will extend to Saturdays will also push me to bypass Harpenden and go elsewhere where I may still have to pay for parking but a wider range of facilities and businesses are available. Just popping into harpenden because it's handy and I just need to do one thing will be a ting of the past. I'm not going to bring my children with additional needs into Harpenden when I'm going to have to constantly have my eye on the clock and be rushing them, and creating more stress.

I understand this is a financial move for the council in difficult circumstances but I truly believe this will damage town centre businesses and facilities and make Harpenden a less attractive place to live and visit

If charges are necessary then limiting to Monday to Friday and giving an hour free would be less damaging but I suspect would not fulfill your immediate financial objectives. Going ahead with these changes will make local businesses poorer, local families poorer both financially and otherwise and impact the quality of life in Harpenden, all of which will have long term consequences.

Please note it has been very hard to access this consultation, me and others have frequently tried to access and not been able to get in. It is also unstructured unlike the previous consultation as well as not so well publicised. All these factors will have resulted in less feedback this time but this should not be taken as meaning people don't still object and have real concerns.

The parking in Harpenden should remain free. If not, it will put residents off going into town or limit their time there which will have a negative effect on spending in Harpenden. The free parking at Waitrose already means I shop there more than Sainsbury as you have to pay to park in the Sainsburys car park. This initiative will have similar effects. Surely you can think of another way to make more money that won't upset all the residents.

<p>I feel that it's difficult enough to visit Harpenden as it is. There isn't enough parking now & restrictions will create further issues. There is a benefit at the moment of being able to pop into town for certain items & not having to pay to park. If that goes, there is no incentive to go to town, why wouldn't I travel to an out of town retail park with sufficient free parking? These parking restrictions will reduce the revenues the local businesses will receive. In an already different economic climate you will further give people a reason not to shop local.</p> <p>Please don't do this.</p>
<p>I strongly object to proposed car parking charges for 1/2 hour, 1 hour or 2 hours. This does not help the older patrons of Harpenden to shop in slow time in Harpenden. With people ordering products and produce on line, less of the public facilitate our local amenities. I do not object to the proposed 2 hour free parking.</p>
<p>Please have two hours free parking in harpenden to support shopping and dining</p>
<p>I wholly object to this proposal. It will be bad for businesses, bad for Harpenden high street and bad for residents.</p> <p>In addition, the objections from the last consultation have not been taken into consideration when amending this consultation. It is incredibly difficult to find this consultation and to object to it. It seems to me that the council are hiding this consultation on purpose to force this through. It is not clear, transparent and does not feel like a genuine consultation. If it was, then the first consultation would have been listened to as 95% of respondents objected (90% wholly objected) to these proposals. If the numbers are less this time round, it will be because it is so hard to find the consultation and to object to it, not because there are fewer objections.</p>
<p>I complete object to this proposal. This will completely kill the town. I refuse to pay this Tax so will no longer bother to shop in the town. Its cheaper to get my goods from Amazon and my food delivered. I have no interest in the towns abundant coffee shops. I have lived in Harpenden for over 50 years and now that all of the banks are gone, there is no reason to pay £5 to visit the few decent shops that are left.</p>
<p>I believe 30 minute free parking limit is unnecessarily restrictive leaving people unable to do small errands in town and affecting small businesses who need these valuable customers.</p>
<p>I strongly object to the proposed changes to parking restrictions in Harpenden (map ref: PPB/01). I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this policy would have on both local residents and business owners.</p> <p>Many local residents, especially those who live on the outskirts of Harpenden or in the surrounding countryside, rely on this free parking to shop, dine, and engage with local services. Similarly, the existing parking system is crucial for supporting local businesses, many of whom are already struggling in the current economic climate. This proposed change would create additional financial and logistical challenges for residents and businesses and result in more custom being diverted to online businesses.</p> <p>Moreover, the proposed changes will exacerbate congestion on surrounding streets as drivers search for alternative free parking.</p> <p>I urge the council to reconsider this proposal and preserve the current parking arrangements of at least 1 - 2 hours free parking.</p>
<p>I object to this proposal on the basis of the charges. £2.50 for 1 hour and £5 is very expensive, in fact the most expensive parking in Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Small independent stores rely on customers that could park for free while they make their choices. These charges will harm those businesses.</p> <p>The charges should be reconsidered.</p>
<p>I object</p> <p>As I approach my 80th year I find myself dismayed and outraged by these proposals. I am an active person and walk to town often but at this stage of life cannot carry very much. Significant shopping means using the car. Or it did until now. The present plans raise significantly my costs. The only viable option for me is to switch to online shopping. So at a stroke you reduce my already limited social engagement and inflict harm on the businesses of Harpenden. A dismal outcome imho. Please think again.</p>
<p>I'm horrified by these proposals, even the revised ones. As a parent, as a carer of 3 children with complex needs, as someone who depends on the local shops & facilities (including doctors, library, Services for Young People, etc), these parking charges are going to really impact whether I "pop" into town. Not everyone in Harpenden is wealthy, so why are the per hour rates so much higher than surrounding towns? I don't think the impact on young families and/or the disabled has been properly considered. One of my children has a Blue Badge, but the other two don't. Does that mean I shouldn't take them into town frequently anymore, as they would struggle to walk from home (for safety/vulnerability reasons).</p> <p>I'm very concerned about the impact on local shops. We are lucky in Harpenden to have retained a well occupied and diverse High Street of retail and hospitality, not just chain shops and empty units like many towns. This parking plan seems to be directly opposed to the best interests of those businesses - and risks damaging the vibrancy of the town centre. Parking seems to be seen as an easy revenue stream, without consideration of the wider implications.</p>

Introducing pay for parking will further decimate an already struggling town centre as people decide to shop elsewhere where parking is free. It won't reduce traffic or encourage people to walk or use public transport, instead, it will further compromise the viability of independent shops who will see their footfall decrease. This is just another form of tax targeting Harpenden residents' perceived bottomless pockets

I oppose this proposal. The claim that finding parking in Harpenden is stressful does not reflect reality. The only stress residents feel regarding parking is this very suggestion. There is sufficient parking availability, the rules are clear, and spaces can usually be found quickly. I haven't seen any evidence from the council to support the idea that parking is problematic.

The response to 7.2.2 is inadequate and lacks evidence. Has anyone actually observed Harpenden town centre? Many elderly residents shop at Sainsbury's, M&S, or Waitrose—not just to purchase groceries but to enjoy the experience, interact with others, and meet friends. While online shopping is an option, it cannot replace these important social aspects. This isn't limited to older people; it's true for many residents of Harpenden. How have these situations been factored into your proposal?

The suggested amendment to address the needs of parents and carers with young children misses key considerations. It doesn't account for school pick-ups, which run from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for after-school activities or nursery settings. It also ignores families with children in half-day nursery schedules.

The town centre hosts a variety of activities for parents with babies and for older residents, many of whom drive to participate. These events are vital to Harpenden's community spirit. This proposal, however, prioritizes solving the council's financial issues at the expense of residents, without considering the cultural value of these activities or the financial burden on pensioners, who are already under pressure during the cost-of-living crisis.

The argument that additional revenue from these charges will fund increased enforcement, including ANPR, is concerning. This seems to treat Harpenden as though it were part of Greater London, where limited space and high car volumes demand stricter measures. Harpenden, however, is a small town, not a city, and such enforcement is unnecessary. Furthermore, if the proposal's aim is to encourage walking and cycling, fewer cars should reduce the need for enforcement, thereby limiting the revenue generated—leaving the council with significant costs to implement these measures and little financial return. Was an economic assessment conducted, or is this based on assumptions taken from other areas? Proper forecasts need to be specific and backed by realistic data, not copied from unrelated case studies.

The villages surrounding Harpenden also rely on regular visits to the town. For many, cycling is not a feasible option, as it involves navigating dangerous country roads where cars travel at high speeds. Public transport timetables and frequencies are unlikely to change. This means the proposal effectively imposes a "visitor's tax" on residents of nearby villages. Harpenden is a country town, not a city, and its residents should not face additional costs, especially when the community sees no benefit from them.

The fact that this proposal is even being considered, despite the current system functioning well and without prior objections, reflects poor decision-making. The £1.5m loss cited by the council could likely be offset without introducing unnecessary schemes like this. The council would be better served by consulting with residents before pursuing changes that offer little to no benefit to the community.

In summary, I strongly oppose this proposal. It is poorly justified, unfairly targets residents, and fails to consider the unique character and needs of Harpenden.

As a retired pensioner with knee and back problems, walking and cycling into central Harpenden are not feasible for me and the Harpenden Hopper is too infrequent. I cannot shop and/or meet friends for coffee or lunch in 30 minutes and so I will incur parking charges. If these proposals are passed, I will be a very infrequent visitor to Harpenden centre and in future will shop "out of town" where the supermarkets and shopping malls provide free parking.

I wholly object to this proposal.

You claim that finding parking spaces can be stressful, but I assure you that the only stress Harpenden residents feel regarding parking comes from this very proposal. There is ample parking, everyone understands the restrictions, and spaces can generally be found quickly. I have yet to see any evidence from the council that suggests otherwise.

Your response to 7.2.2 is insufficient—where is the supporting evidence? Has anyone observed Harpenden town centre and seen elderly residents doing their weekly shopping at Sainsbury's, M&S, or Waitrose? While online shopping is an option, it's not just about buying groceries; it's about the experience, social interaction, and meeting friends. This applies not just to the elderly but to all Harpenden residents. Where in your considerations have these circumstances been addressed?

The proposed amendment to reduce the impact on parents and carers with young children misses the point entirely. It fails to consider school pick-ups, which start at 3 p.m. and run until 6 p.m. for after-school clubs and nursery settings. It also neglects to account for children attending nursery on half-day schedules.

The town centre hosts numerous activities for parents with babies and the elderly, many of whom drive into town to participate. These activities greatly enrich Harpenden's unique community. This proposal, however, prioritizes remedying the council's financial mismanagement at the expense of residents, with no regard for the cultural impact on the community or the financial strain it imposes on pensioners already struggling during the cost-of-living crisis.

The suggestion that funds from these charges will be used for increased enforcement measures, including ANPR, is deeply flawed. It appears the council is modeling itself after Greater London, where parking enforcement is necessary due to limited space and high car volumes. Harpenden, however, is not London. We do not need advanced enforcement measures to manage parking. Furthermore, if the proposal's aim is to encourage walking and cycling, fewer cars would theoretically reduce the need for enforcement and diminish revenue—leaving the council with significant expenses for implementing these measures and little return on investment. Has any economic analysis been conducted, or is this based on assumptions from other areas? Forecasting must be tailored and grounded in realistic assumptions, not simply copied from case studies elsewhere.

Additionally, the villages surrounding Harpenden rely on regular trips to the town. Cycling for these residents is impractical, as it would require navigating country roads with vehicles traveling at 60 mph, and public transport timetables are unlikely to improve. This proposal effectively imposes a "visitor's tax" on residents of surrounding villages. Once again, Harpenden is not London; it is a country town, not a city. Local residents should not be subject to additional costs, especially when these do not benefit the community but instead cover the council's financial shortfalls.

The fact that we are even considering this change, which disrupts a system that works well and has faced no prior objections, highlights poor decision-making and management by the council. The £1.5m loss cited by the council could likely be mitigated by refraining from unnecessary schemes like this one. The council should focus on consulting residents before making decisions that fail to serve the community effectively.

In conclusion, I firmly object to this proposal, which is inadequate and exploitative of the council's residents. The approach is unproductive, poorly justified, and disregards the unique needs of Harpenden and its surrounding areas.

I object to this change.

You are motivating this change by the current financial climate and the losses of £1.5m on the parking services, yet you have failed to provide a detailed justification of how these losses happened in the first place. You also have failed to detail the measures you have taken to prevent such losses from occurring, before asking for more funds.

Furthermore, you are talking about these measures as a way to encourage walking and cycling to shops. However, you have not done anything to effectively support cycling – there are no cycle racks nor cycle paths worth speaking of in the areas where the shops are in central Harpenden.

I wholeheartedly object to this proposal.

The methodology and tactics used to hide, confuse and obfuscate the consultation process at every level borders on community bullying, insincerity towards the electorate and business owners, and demonstrates clear lack of management techniques one expects of public and paid officials who represent its electorate.

At no stage during the past few months have SADC given a clear and transparent account of all the considerations reviewed and analysed to reach their conclusion. It is matter of public record Cllr De Kort, on the eve of being appointed to Leader of SADC said the introduction of parking charges will go ahead irrespective of any consultation process. Hardly representative of a demostractic process.

It is clear to the 1000's of residents, business leaders and staff in Harpenden who have protested either by petition response, lobbying Cllr's and MP's, emails, attendance at SADC and HTC meetings this proposal does not meet the objective of supporting a thriving High Street supported and enjoyed by its residents.

At no stage, have SADC revealed what alternate options have been considered to address the parking budget shortfall. There has been a complete, and one has to assume, an intentional and severe lack of transparency on this matter by SADC.

Financial control of an annual budget is a key pillar of executive management. It is public record the parking budget deficit has been running for 4 years. This would be unacceptable in any corporate environment. Why is a council any differnet? Those responsible should have been removed from their duties and a fully rounded plan executed in the second year to ensure budget break-even. I do not accept this is a party political matter. As paid employees within SADC responsible for financial management they are not elected officials and therefore accountable for their fiduciary responsibilites. Continually managing a budget in deficit is a performance management issue. Why has this continued for 4 years and more importantly what other budget lines are continually operating in deficit - maybe I should issue a FOIR, but based on experience its unlikely to reveal a truthful answer.

Enforcement of the existing free parking is a farce. A FOIR indicated 17 full time employed enforcement officers work within the AL5 post code. This is clearly not true and therefore makes a mockery of the FOIR process and reflects poorly on SADC. If SADC represents incorrect detail to a legally approved process, how can the electorate trust anything issued by SADC?

Enforcement is still required even in a paid parking environment, so are we to assume yet more money, which SADC do not have, will be spent on more officers, ANPR vehicles and drivers to police this new proposal?

Parking permits have been proffered as a solution to the budget deficit, no valid response has been offered as to why this solution was rejected. Throughout the country this system operates perfectly acceptably when communicated and managed professionally by the respective authorities. The nievity and condesending communication on this matter is unacceptable and falls short of expectations of elected officials.

Harpenden town centre businesses employ many hundreds of people and contribute many thousands of pounds to the SADC budget in taxes. Yet, there appears to be a complete lack of acknowledgement by SADC of how the staff and business owners; many of who need vehicles to attend their place of work due to inconvenient public transport or the need deliver/collect product for their business, will be able to accomodate this additional tax on their daily life. There are potentially two resulting scenarios, firstly staff will leave their job or businesses will close/move to alternate location. Secondly, cars will find alternate free parking on the limits of the paid parking boundary which will inevitably frustrate the residents who have, until now enjoyed the scerenity of their road. Neither scenario is palatable.

Harpenden covers a wide area, for many too large to walk, cycle or take children to school. Many people use their vehicle to 'drop' into the high street, collect a few essentials or drop their children off at school and benefit from the existing free parking. Whilst I acknowledge the concession for school drop off, there is no such provision for collection!

Whether SADC like it or not, we do not live in the 50'sa nd 60's when walking or cycling was the norm. Today we live in a modern world where the car is the defacto mode of transport. SADC's nieve belief that they can change the social norms by imposing parking fees is crass and defies logic.

The consequence of SADC's action will be to push the traditional high street, local shop away from the town - there is clear documented evidence from other parts of the country this will happen, despite SADC refusing to believe such data exists. A quick Google search will reveal such data.

This proposal is ill thought through. Demonstrates a complete lack of forethought. Alienates the community against its elected officials who placed them in officie in the first. A dire sense of mis-management of public funds. Comprehensive lack of trust in accountability and honesty of SADC employees and elected officials.

I leave you with one solution. Place 3 permanent enforcement officers into AL5 for 6 months, 6 days a week, 9am - 6pm and manage the existing parking effectively - issue penalty notices efficiently and watch the budget shortfall disappear and free parking spaces be freed up more regularly. At the end of 6 months prove to the town the budget shortfall still exists.

And remember those affected by this proposal placed the elected officials in office. Harpenden residents have long memories and I fear those elected will be less successful anext tim around!

20 minutes is not long enough to get children out of the car into buggies, walk to school wait for siblings to come out of school, encourage them to leave the school premises, walk back to the car and get everyone into the car. Whoever came up with the Idea that 20 minutes is long enough for school drop-off and more so pick up, when classes sometimes run over is unrealistic. I can only assume they do not have children, don't have to be involved in logistics or childcare or has not had young children for many years.

There are many reasons for consumers to buy online these days, you are simply adding to another. If Harpenden loses it's bustling High Street it will be damaging to Harpenden as a whole and property prices locally.

I mostly walk to town but on the days that I do drive it is to collect parcels or do a food shop , neither of which can be done in 30 mins . A trip to the post office alone require allowing an hour due to excessive queue. Can't you make the first hour free rather than 30 mins . This will impact shops so much as residents will go elsewhere rather than pay to park .

I am sure this will go through anyway as it has been made very difficult to find the consultation response form - so assuming you press ahead regardless , method of paying is another issue , I had to wander round for 20 mins the other day to get a signal having parked under Sainsbury's and the phone signal in town is sketchy in a lot of areas so using that pay by phone app has issues too .

I attend a one hour exercise class in Harpenden Town Centre, twice a week. As I need to be parked for about 1hr 15 mins, under these proposals I will have to pay either £3.75 or £2.50 on top of my class fees for every class (depending on how the 30 mins free parking works). That is over £20 per month and £240 plus per year. I can't afford that so would have to reduce or cancel my classes. Most people in my class are saying the same.

The charges are outrageously high and not appropriate for a small town where the centre is full of schools, classes, GP's etc

I can't walk or cycle because I do the class in my lunchbreak, also like a lot of people in the class.

Is taxing people to exercise and reducing how much they exercise really what you want to do?

Also, I'm concerned about how complicated the parking structure is going to be. When I've done sports at Gosling Sports Centre where there is 30 mins free parking, the receptionists are tearing their hair out about the confusion around the parking. For example.. if you drop a child off and park for 10 mins, can you come back later and park for another 10 mins free? Or if you doing sport for an hour, is there a way to use the free half hour and pay for an additional half hour up front? Or do you have to come back out to your car?

My only option if I continue with the Harpenden classes to make them affordable would be to get my partner to drop me down at the class and then pick me up at the end, which would be a hassle for them, plus an additional unneeded car journey so also bad for the environment.

I wholly object to the proposed enforced parking restrictions which will significantly damage our ability to trade.

Hearing Healthcare Practice has been a permanent fixture in the town since 1981. Our current leasehold premises is located in a private cul-de-sac, (REDACTED). Our clients all have hearing loss, many are retired and /or elderly. Due to this demographic a significant proportion have other health issues. Many are accompanied by carers. A high percentage of our clients travel into the area from around the country to access our service. Our clinic caters for up to four patients at a time with many consultations lasting in excess of two hours.

Our landlords control parking so our patients' have to park on the street. The removal of free parking will create greater distances the disabled will need to navigate presenting access issues for our patients. Limiting the 'paid for period' to 120 minutes will mean we are unable to provide effective treatments any longer and our business will suffer. The proposed plans will adversely discriminate against our disabled stakeholders.

I fully support this proposal, and I am embarrassed by the show that is being put up by some of the objectors. The vast majority of people in Harpenden have an income where these charges won't even be noticed, and we should do our utmost to reduce the incentive of using cars given the traffic problems that already exist, let alone the environmental concerns.

The proposed changes will serve as a deterrent to local residents to support local shops and businesses. I will actively go to shop elsewhere as a protest to these proposals. This will also have an environmental knock on as more local residents engage in more driving to shop for essentials. Greater efforts should be made to penalise those who park illegally in Harpenden town centre, as this would create more revenue than the proposed parking charges. Cars and vans park illegally in Harpenden on a daily basis and I have never seen any enforcement officers despite living in Harpenden for over 20 years.

I am writing to express significant concerns about the proposed introduction of parking charges for currently free parking bays in Harpenden town centre. After careful consideration, I believe these charges will have detrimental consequences for our local economy and community vitality.

Local Business Sustainability

The proposed charges will fundamentally change consumer behaviour. Many local residents, me included, currently use the free 1-2 hour parking to support local businesses. For instance, I regularly visit local cafes, spending £5-10 on each visit, and supporting the local economy. Such casual visits are likely to cease if parking becomes an additional expense. For many locals, the marginal cost of parking will create a psychological barrier that discourages spontaneous visits to local establishments.

Comparative Alternatives

Residents will inevitably seek alternative shopping destinations with free parking. Nearby out-of-town shopping centres and retail parks offer free, convenient parking, which will become increasingly attractive. This shift will devastate our town centre's independent businesses, which are already struggling in the current economic climate.

Unintended Consequences The proposal is likely to trigger a cascade of negative effects:

1. Reduced town centre footfall
2. Decreased revenue for local businesses
3. Increased congestion in residential areas as people seek free parking
4. Potential rise in demand for residential parking permits
5. Long-term economic decline of the town centre

Consumer Behaviour Insights

Introducing parking charges creates a direct financial disincentive for short visits. What was once a convenient stop for a quick coffee or brief shopping errand becomes a calculated cost-benefit decision. Many consumers, faced

with even a small parking fee, will choose to avoid the town centre entirely, particularly for minor transactions.

Request for Further Consultation

I strongly urge the council to:

- Conduct a comprehensive consultation with local businesses and residents
- Commission a detailed economic impact assessment
- Consider alternative revenue generation methods that do not harm our local economy (e.g. enforcing the current free periods)

Conclusion

The proposed parking charges represent a short-sighted approach that risks long-term damage to Harpenden's economic and social fabric. I respectfully request that the council reconsider this proposal and explore alternative strategies that support our local businesses and community.

I object to the proposal of charging for parking in Harpenden.

I object to this proposal, it is clear that harpenden shops are already suffering from greedy landlords. This will deter the shoppers and send them elsewhere. You only have to look at the top end of St Albans high street to see what pedestrianisation did for the shops. This will have the same affect.

I strongly feel this parking restriction will kill the local high street. Why 'pop' into Harpenden when it can be delivered for free by Amazon and by charging people to park people will be discourage even further into our beautiful village. The local businesses suffer enough from having to compete with online shopping and the cost of rates etc. Please leave our free 2 hour parking alone.

I totally oppose the plans to charge for parking in Harpenden town centre

I object to this proposal as it will put the small businesses based in Harpenden in jeopardy and the high street, the community and its residents will lose out. Shoppers will go elsewhere if they are expected to pay these high charges.

The parking proposal is detrimental to the local shops & whole community in general . 30 minutes is not long enough time to go to the post office, Dr appointment etc
It will stop shops benefiting from being able to pop in therefore a huge loss of income to retailers. Maybe you should re asses their rates!

Charging for parking will kill off Harpenden High Street, especially at the rates proposed. We already pay substantial amounts of money in council tax, pay additional for green wheelie bin, have appalling road conditions, appalling lighting. I struggle to understand where the money goes. It's all very well to say £x amount on y, but I don't see we're getting real value. At least give the local shops and residents some free parking! If we lose any more shops on our High Street, it will struggle to remain active.

Would like to see the SADC staff lose their free parking perk and pay their share in parking fees. Need to see full transparency in the cost of setting up this proposal such as installation of the meters, utility cost for electricity to run the meters , the extra staffing and supervision required to monitor the metered spaces and the projected income . Let's get transparency here.
Don't like the reasons given by the current administration especially suggesting the public that maybe they should use public transport, or cycle in but there no secure bike parking spots or walk into town. Why not look into building multi storey parking somewhere like bowers way west or amenbury lane where the council has removed 20plus spaces. Just a thought!

I believe that the proposed changes to on street parking (both the timings & charges) will be hugely detriment all to the businesses on our high street.

With so many other financial pressures on both the shoppers & the shops this may well prove to be the final straw for many.

How will the 2 x 30 minute free stays per day be controlled?

Yet more unsightly street furniture in the way of payment machines/signage will be required.

I am very much AGAINST these proposals and firmly believe they should be rejected

You really will drive customers away from Harpenden and destroy the High Street. People aren't going to pay to park to grab a couple of bits and won't have time to browse in shops such as threads or clothes shop. This is a terrible idea.

This is a wholly inadequate amendment to the original proposal, to which I objected. The council has not addressed any of the concerns I raised originally. The impact on local businesses will be severe and residents will travel further afield to avoid paying these exorbitant charges, which are the highest in Hertfordshire - therefore causing more pollution and global warming.

I am against all parking charges proposed. It will kill the high street and but many shops as well as restaurants / pubs out of business. It's a terrible charge on those elderly residents who cannot walk and also families just taking their children to activities in town. I strongly suggest you reconsider all proposed charges.

I totally disagree with the proposed change to the current parking in Harpenden. A vibrant High Street is crucial to the life of the town. Many of the local independent businesses will suffer from this ill thought through change. SADC has been under the same leadership for a good few years so can only blame its incompetence if there is such a black hole in its finances. Do not make the so called wealthy Harpenden residents pay for that. Not everyone can afford to splash out on parking fees and as usual it's those with tighter finances (and there are plenty in Harpenden) will suffer.

This proposal will damage Harpenden businesses, affect the ability of many, particularly elderly and disabled, local residents to access the High Street and will lead to more environmental damage from car drivers looking for alternative places to park. The amendments to the original scheme, which was opposed by the vast majority of residents (as per the previous "consultation") are not substantive and do not address the issues which were raised. The icing on the cake is that I do not believe that these changes will even raise additional funding for the council, assuming that the restrictions are enforced, as the cost of doing so will outweigh any additional funds raised from parking charges. The argument about promoting walking and cycling is utterly facile. Harpenden has an ageing population, many of whom are unable to walk from their homes to the High Street, whilst the area has the highest incidence of cycle theft nationally. The local roads are also too congested, often with through traffic, school runs etc, making cycling a dangerous option.

I wholly object to St Albans Council's proposal to introduce parking charges on Harpenden high street. There is a real risk that the implementation of these charges will lead to business closures on the high street, particularly given the ageing demographic of Harpenden (who are more dependent on car for accessing the town centre), who will be put off going into the town given the parking charges that are suggested. One of the key objectives of the St Albans Council Plan (2024-29) is to help "via resident and visitor footfall, customers to our many service industries. We will continue to work with transport authorities to improve the ways that people can move around the District". These parking proposals go against this ambitions in two ways - firstly aiming to improve resident and visitor footfall (by vastly increasing the cost of visiting Harpenden town centre), and secondly by reducing the ability of people to travel to their town centre, without facing extortionate parking charges (which is essentially a tax of local residents, therefore reducing spend in local businesses, who are still struggling post-pandemic).

I hope the Council reconsiders these proposals to support the vitality of our high streets and local residents and businesses.

I wholly object to St Albans Council's proposal to introduce parking charges on Harpenden high street. There is a real risk that the implementation of these charges will lead to business closures on the high street, particularly given the ageing demographic of Harpenden (who are more dependent on car for accessing the town centre), who will be put off going into the town given the parking charges that are suggested. One of the key objectives of the St Albans Council Plan (2024-29) is to help "via resident and visitor footfall, customers to our many service industries. We will continue to work with transport authorities to improve the ways that people can move around the District". These parking proposals go against this ambitions in two ways - firstly aiming to improve resident and visitor footfall (by vastly increasing the cost of visiting Harpenden town centre), and secondly by reducing the ability of people to travel to their town centre, without facing extortionate parking charges (which is essentially a tax of local residents, therefore reducing spend in local businesses, who are still struggling post-pandemic).

I hope the Council reconsiders these proposals to support the vitality of our high streets and local residents and businesses.

This will kill the town. You will not make one penny out of me with this nonsense. All purchases will be made on Amazon from now on.

Our patients rely on parking here and if they were unable to park or have to pay it would effect our business along with the business of several others around Harpenden

Our patients rely on the 1 hour and 2 hour free parking either side of our practice as this allows plenty of time and access to the healthcare we provide. As a business we have patients that travel to us by car and this would have a huge affect on us and our patients if they felt they needed to be seen elsewhere due to parking provisions.

I object to the proposals on the following grounds:

1. No research has been undertaken into parking behaviour/local need in Harpenden, and comments in the previous consultation and from businesses and HTC are being willfully and recklessly ignored.
 2. No reasoning has been given for changing parking bays to resident parking. Presumably these flats were bought/rented with no parking, so why is it being changed? It will be a disgrace if these are changed and then not fully used during the day, thereby damaging the town economy for no good reason.
 3. 30 mins free parking is 25% less free parking than the 2 x 20 mins first offered. Nowhere in the consultation comments does it say that anyone asked for less free parking! 20 mins wasn't long enough for anything, so 30 mins is better, but it still should be at least 2 x 30 mins to allow for the drop off and pick up off children or the infirm at clubs or appointments. The first 30 mins free at any time of the day, any number of times would be much more sensible and simple to understand and would be very unlikely to have any negative impact on revenue raised as this is about drop off / pick ups. Otherwise people will just be circling/idelling rather than parking which is very bad for the environment.
- Following on from the first point, if you are going to go ahead and implement anyway, against all the objections, then please at least make sure it works smoothly and easily for parkers. Difficulty understanding the system, difficulty using the systems and difficulty easily extending your stay are likely to be as big, if not bigger, deterrents to parking than cost.

The changes to free parking and introduction of parking charges in Harpenden will be bad for residents and for businesses.

It will dramatically reduce people visiting the town centre, as half an hour is far too short a period to do their shopping, particularly if they visit multiple shops.

People will choose to go to out of town free parking retail centres and supermarkets instead.

The businesses hardest hit will independent small businesses, who are already struggling with high costs, the rise of online shopping and the dominance of large retailers.

Harpenden is lucky in that it has a relatively thriving town centre and High Street, please do not kill it off.

Parking charges have already been overwhelmingly rejected by the residents and businesses of Harpenden, to force this through is unforgivable.

It is baffling that St Albans District Council is trying to commit this act of self sabotage.

I object to the idea of making ANY changes to the parking in Harpenden. But at a minimum 1 hour should be free, not 30mins as proposed. When I take elderly relatives in to the town centre it would be impossible to shop and do errands with them in 30mins. The real losers will be the town's economy and retailers when those who are unable to walk will simply go elsewhere to shop, where the parking is free.

considering the overwhelming community objection to this proposal in petitions, feedback and complaints at council level I am astounded that SADC has put its head in the sand and totally stuck two fingers up at Harpenden and its residents. 30 mins free is less than 40 mins - so this make it worse, it shows no understanding of how the town centre is used at all, and prices us above ST Albans! your concession of starting the charges 30 mins later is even more see-through as you are unlikely to get any attendants to us in time anyhow! You are an utter disgrace as representatives of the residents and at no point have been willing to work with Harpenden. You objected to a working partnership. Just because it is legal for you to make this decision does not mean that you should! It is legal for Kier to take TS concert tickets - it doesn't mean he should. If you just did your job of controlling the parking you would make money in fines

If you were in the private sector you would have been fired for a total mismanagement of the budget. How parking can make a loss is just ridiculous. Why don't you hand Harpenden parking and car parks to Harpenden council and let them make a better job if it.

May i politely suggest that you all do better in your jobs and listen to the public. I am a Lib Dem member and there is absolutely no way I will be voting for any lib dems at any elections for SADC going forwards. You have lost respect and votes due to ignoring the people of Harpenden.

Like the majority of people in Harpenden I see the removal of free on-street parking dealing a devastating blow to the health of the High Street. This footling move from 20 to 30 minutes with half hour paid slots just ignores the main fact that people will be put off by the extra hassle of finding a meter or fiddling with apps and just drive somewhere else for their goods. I know I will, and by the response received from the retailer's surveys lots of other people will. Yet Helen Campbell has said that there is no evidence to support the notion that the high street will be less busy, when there is from the retailer's survey, and producing no evidence that it will be just as busy with the paid parking. The need for evidence is the responsibility of the Council, as they are the one's proposing the change, yet they have offered no impact analysis and as far as I know they have not performed any assessment of the parking situation in Harpenden, reduced to the level of phoning Harpenden Town Council to check the number of loading bays available because District Council didn't have an up to date record. Do the right thing, listen to the residents of Harpenden and stop this move to end free on-street parking.

I completely oppose this proposal. The fact that SADC have had to come with a further iteration of this proposal, shows how ill thought out it was in the beginning. Perhaps if they had actually surveyed the businesses and residents they would have found out earlier the strength of feeling the residents and small business owners had over this. It is interesting to see in the local press that SADC admitted that this proposal was going to go ahead, prior to consultation. They have said that they do not accept that the small businesses will be affected and have evidence to support this, in which case, allow the public to see the evidence and allow the businesses and residents to respond. The small businesses have conducted their own surveys, which show that they will be drastically affected, have SADC asked to see this information? apparently not. Have they listened to the small businesses concerns, apparently not. In the papers it is reported that SADC have met with HTC, yet Councillor Scott says that no such meeting has taken place, the residents should know if this meeting took place and if so, make the minutes available so that they know what was said and discussed. I understand that a Freedom of Information request showed that SADC had already spent £48,000 on parking equipment, why would they do this during the consultation period, unless of course they had already made the decision to implement the proposal and are now merely going through the consultation process because The St Albans Times published an article about the proposal. What have SADC taken into consideration? How will parents take their children to school, St Nicholas starts at 8.55, giving parents 5 minutes to get back to their car, as they will need to have their 30 minutes free parking for picking their children up. What about people who have dental appointments, optician appointments, doctors appointments, do SADC seriously believe these can be completed in 30 minutes. Can a weeks shopping be completed in less than half an hour, of course not. No more browsing in the shops, no more meeting for coffee, no more queueing for the post office as it may take more than half an hour, no more seeking advice from the Pharmacist, no more browsing in the charity shops, and SADC say that there is no evidence to suggest that the small businesses will be affected. Finally, I note that SADC are saying these proposals will encourage people to walk or cycle to the High Street, I am nearly 70 and live over a mile from the high street on the other side of the valley, it would take me about 40 minutes to walk up and down Station Road, and when I get to the shops to buy my food shopping, how am I supposed to carry my vegetables, milk and other essentials home again? One hours free parking is the most sensible option with proper parking management. It is well known that people park on the High Street well in excess of two hours because they know no one ever checks, people park on double yellow lines and single yellow lines all the time because they know no one will come and check and issue a fine, if this was to happen, you would get the financial income that you are seeking. Please make this a proper consultation by speaking the people it affects.

This compromise is insufficient. An hour free parking would enable residents to visit local businesses, take children and pick up from school, attend Church, attend the dentist, Doctors appointments and a pharmacy. These are all essential services that many can only be accessed in the High Street. I have spoken to residents and retailers who have all expressed their horror at the proposals. I find the comments about walking and cycling discriminatory and I object to being told to change and not use a car. We live 1.2 miles from the High Street, I cannot walk up hills due to a heart condition and also arthritis in my ankles. I have to use a car. You say there is no evidence it will affect the local businesses. You have not published this evidence. If it exists please can this be published for residents and businesses. It is interesting that SADC say they have had a meeting with Harpenden Town Council. Apparently this is incorrect and has not happened. This does need to be paused and at least 1 hour free parking granted. If there were more enforcement officers actively checking this would surely generate substantial funds to avoid any charges at all.

This will greatly harm local businesses in Harpenden by deterring potential shoppers and reducing time spent visiting the smaller retail outlets and cafes. I am not affiliated with any local business. I am a resident who wants Harpenden to be a thriving centre with an interesting variety of shops and businesses.

I do not feel SADC have made reasonable adjustments to the parking consultation, they have not listened to residents, councillors or businesses. It feels as if St Albans council is out of touch with what Harpenden residents know will work in their town. I believe there should be 1 hour free parking with payment thereafter. Harpenden residents, businesses are not asking for free parking, only free for 1 hour to support the town they live in and want it to thrive. This would allow for shopping at local businesses, it will also promote traffic moves on after an hour, and local roads will not be filled with cars parked in all day.

Parking restrictions will destroy the high street

As residents we have made it perfectly clear that the town is not on board with this proposal.. the arguments made in strongest terms.. the local business have flagged the impacts as well and yet stADC seems hell bent on pushing this through despite the uproar.., nos you are just trying to wear us down and its not right.. we still object!!

I completely oppose the parking fees that are being brought in. The one hour free parking is essential for residents and business owners and we the people of Harpenden have not been listened to . How is it justified that frivolous expenses like the lamps around the memorial are put in at a ridiculous cost and was never wanted . Yet the parking charges are forced upon us - detrimental to the smaller businesses because we can only support local businesses up to a certain degree after which it's too expensive . What would be a quick hop out and get a card would now add undue costs to the final price with the parking and I will go elsewhere . If Harpenden was a big town it would seem that we can get a lot more done in town - but that is not the case . Listen to the people and small business owners !

Only allowing 30 minutes free parking per day will encourage people to just pop to the shops really quickly and rush back to cars. 30 mins is not enough time to go to doctors and pick up prescription. Not enough time to go to supermarket and follow up with popping to local shops. Not enough time to collect child from one of 3 town centre schools and take them for treat, go to shops, go to play group, dance class etc. not enough time for many of our residents old and young to do some shopping and go for coffee, pop to independent shops. The list is endless and has already been explained clearly in first consultation! This will simply encourage an environment of people rushing to do things, stressing to get kids back to their cars after school and will directly negatively affect local retailers and businesses. Proposals also to make 5 bays on Leyton Green residential outside doctors surgery, 3 dentists and Salvation Army building is ridiculous! You are simply planning to use money from Harpenden parking to plug hole in failing budget pretending that it's all about 'Active Travel'

I think this is an ill-considered proposal. The revenue raising aims would be completely over shadowed by the negative impact on the local businesses of Harpenden on which the town depends as well as the costs associated with implementing such a scheme - installing machines, paying for enforcement etc. 30 free minutes is not an adequate concession either, at the very least it should be one hour. However I remain totally opposed to these changes.

I know this is universally unpopular and all of the many reasons why 30 minutes free parking is not long enough have been submitted, but I am hoping that more voices will help. Currently, I come into Harpenden for an exercise class, or to pick up a prescription, and whilst I am there, I then often get a coffee, buy some groceries or pick up a card or present for a friend. With only 30 minutes free parking, I will use the gym at Capability Green instead and just pick up my prescription in Harpenden and go home to buy everything else online. What a waste of energy getting me where I need to go, just for one thing. And the poor businesses in Harpenden will suffer without a doubt, as I won't be the only one to make these types of changes. Please reconsider - an hour's free parking is the absolute minimum that is needed to mitigate some of the impact of this proposal.

I object to the imposition of blanket, tiered parking fees. Harpenden has a wide range of businesses , from small individual-owned retail goods and services, through small companies offering a wide range of services, to national chains.

It is important to support customers of such commercial enterprises, and the companies themselves, by providing limited free parking, My feeling is 1 hour. It has been suggested that 1 hour could be split into 30 mins morning/30 mins afternoon to accommodate school drop-off and pickup. That seems to cater for a limited number of people (can't think who else), and restricts those who wish to shop in just one visit to the town. 30 mins is too short, for a visit for hairdressers, dentist, doctor, lawyer, social chat over coffee with friends, the library (toddlers' reading sessions), browsing for a birthday gift and card.

Please will SADC consider the social implications of this proposal.

This will kill off any trade for retailers in the town (as it has already done in St Albans where I no longer shop as a direct consequence) and in turn reduce your business rates etc and ensure the decline of the town. The town needs to be vibrant and residents and others need an incentive to visit and shop here. If the current rules were enforced properly, there would be no need to introduce such drastic measures - as costs would be covered by fines - from those who are prepared to take the risk and as such are able to pay. This proposal will surely produce a financial surplus - which at best is exploitative and at worse illegal. It will also completely jam up other central roads, meaning that it will detrimentally affect the quality of life for those who live centrally and impact more on those unable to walk - especially the elderly. I support older people and there is no way I could assist an old lady in and out of the hairdresser / optician etc. in 30 mins. It is completely at odds with SADC's Vision too - which now appears just to be a soundbite, rather than a genuine intention. At the very least, people should be given 1 hour of free parking on weekdays - as 30 minutes is not long enough to be productive - do a small shop / a coffee / a haircut, especially for the elderly and also those with young children or prams. As such it is discriminatory. And there should be no charges at weekends - charging on Saturdays is unnecessary and just a money making profiteering exercise. I appeal to you to be more creative and to consider all stakeholders, not just the budget holder - and think through the negative / unintended consequences of your actions.

<p>I strongly oppose the proposed introduction of parking charges on our high street. While I understand the need for local councils to generate revenue and manage parking effectively, I believe that this measure will have several negative impacts on our community, businesses, and overall town vitality.</p> <p>Ignoring Resident Feedback: St Albans Council is not listening to the residents by bringing in these charges, despite the overwhelming feedback against them raised in the consultation. The council's decision to proceed shows a disregard for the community's voice and concerns.</p> <p>Excessive Parking Charges: The level of parking charges being proposed is excessive and not commensurate with the area. Such high charges will undoubtedly deter visitors and shoppers, negatively impacting the local economy.</p> <p>One-Size-Fits-All Approach: The council's one-size-fits-all solution that treats St Albans and Harpenden the same may be convenient for administrative purposes, but it fails to reflect local circumstances. Harpenden is critically dependent on high street parking in a way that St Albans is not, due to the latter's provision of multiple multi-story car parks. This significant difference must be acknowledged and addressed.</p> <p>Impact on Local Businesses: The council's statements that there is no evidence of parking charges impacting businesses are dishonest and simply incorrect. Charges will either stop people from coming into town, reduce the time they spend shopping, or mean that they forego that extra coffee or purchase. The negative impact on local businesses is obvious and does not require a formal study to confirm what is common sense.</p> <p>Revenue-Driven Motives: The council's belligerent approach and dismissal of residents' concerns mask the true priority of revenue-raising and/or driving residents out of their vehicles. This approach not only alienates the community but also undermines trust in local governance.</p> <p>In conclusion, I strongly believe that the introduction of high street parking charges will have detrimental effects on our local businesses, community accessibility, and overall town spirit. I respectfully urge the council to reconsider this proposal and explore more balanced and inclusive solutions that support our local high street and its continued prosperity.</p>
<p>Object to removing the current free parking areas and times.</p> <p>The current parking strategy with its continuing increase in parking charges is having a pernicious effect upon both the wellbeing of individuals and businesses within the district. For example, being unable to now park for free on York Road say, means many people (including myself) can no longer enjoy the amenity of Clarence Park for walking, exercise and their general well-being. Rather than raise revenues via increased parking charges which have a broad and damaging impact upon people's behaviours, are there other areas of increased spend within the council budgets which can be cut back instead.</p>
<p>Free parking is one of the few aspects that distinguishes Harpenden from other towns in the area, and allows short 'drop in' visits of 10-15 mins for town residents and those in the surrounding villages. Loss of free parking will adversely affect every business in the town, plus dissuade local residents from supporting their services. Current Pay And Display car parks cater for longer visits (1 hour plus) but nothing in this change allows for a 10-minute visit to the post office, to drop off Library books or pick up a prescription or dry cleaning – all of which are a mainstay of town visits</p>
<p>By removing the option of 1 hour free parking, it will reduce the number of people coming into town and supporting local businesses. Towns are already struggling with footfall and empty retail outlets, if people have to pay to pop to the shops in Harpenden this will reduce further.</p>
<p>Since changing the parking arrangements for Amenbury lane/Sports Centre I have little doubt St Albans is now making a significant profit on Harpenden parking. The proposed additional changes to Harpenden parking is nothing more than an attempt to raise further revenues to subsidise St Albans councils profligacy in it's pursuit of net zero and climate change targets through fleecing motorists. The damage to Harpenden town centres vibrancy and businesses will be substantial.</p>
<p>The current 2 hour, 1 hour and 30 minute free spaces work fairly well. Personally I can deal with it, but there are many residents (elderly, those with children, those who live a good 30+ minute walk from the town centre, those with limited mobility) who will find it difficult to complete shopping/browsing/eating within the proposed 'free' parking limits, and this proposal will have a knock-on effect on local businesses. The law of unintended consequences applies here. If it isn't broken, it doesn't need fixing. I suspect this is a done deal and any objection will be swept away under the guise of 'not enough money', but SADC should not take the residents' and visitors' goodwill and relative wealth for granted.</p>
<p>These proposals are not wanted by the people of Harpenden. They will have a huge detrimental effect of local businesses and affect the vibrancy of the town. Please listen to your constituents !</p>
<p>Harpenden car drivers should not be viewed as an easy source of council revenue. The recent increased pressure on the on-street parking spaces has arisen due to the now unreasonably high car park charges which are now being levied on the motorist. There are always spaces in the car parks these days as no-one wishes to pay such extortionate charges to park their car. £2.10 for one hour is robbery. I for one will avoid coming into Harpenden town by car in future as I'm sure will many others if these proposals are passed and if I need to use my car to shop then I will be heading out of town to shopping venues where I can park for free. This proposal if not rescinded will have a ruinous effect on the vibrancy and diverse nature of the Harpenden high street and the high street will just become a wasteground of coffee shops, charity shops and estate agencies.</p>
<p>These proposals have been put forward without any meaningful consultation with local residents or businesses. Increased use of parking wardens and fines for illegal parking should be trialled to see if that produces the revenue needed.</p> <p>The Council has not said on what legal basis it will use parking revenue to subsidise general expenditure,</p>

<p>The proposal will make Amazon and other internet delivery firms much more attractive to use by local residents. If parking charges are imposed in Harpenden, shops will close, people will lose their jobs and the town centre will decline. If the council is short of money then it would be better to cut back on spending on Christmas decorations in the town centre</p>
<p>I object to this proposal in its entirety.</p> <p>This proposal was not any manifesto and therefore lacks democratic mandate. It is opposed by Harpenden residents and council. It offers no benefit to the residents of Harpenden. The probability is that it will do irrevocable and substantial damage to the business environment of the High Street.</p>
<p>It is unclear to me the problem you are attempting to solve with these changes. It seems that the only thing you are trying to do is raise funds for a failing service by levying the cost elsewhere. It is shameful that you are condemning our fragile High Street trade further by reducing the likelihood of people shopping locally. And the very worst thing is that you simply aren't listening to the voice of the people. If you were a human, this total disregard for alternative perspectives would be classed as narcissistic. You are merely paying lip service to the idea of consultation and at the public's expense. Please listen, heed and mend your own financial issues before pushing the problem elsewhere.</p>
<p>This is not needed. Just ensure current parking fines are issued</p>
<p>PPB/01 I totally object to the proposals and removal of the OAP parking permit. I would like an explanation as to why senior executives wages from other departments in the council have been lumped into Parking Budget.</p>
<p>30 minutes is too short and puts users under significant time pressure and very dependent on shopping queues / delays which are not in our control. Suggest 1 hour free is more usable and a better compromise</p>
<p>I object to these plans entirely. Having to pay to park in Harpenden would mean I would no longer use the shops there but drive elsewhere where there is free parking. Since parking charges were brought in at the Sainsbury's car park in the evening I have already stopped doing my weekly shop there and this will stop me visiting at any time.</p>
<p>THE IDEA OF CHARGING FOR PARKING IN CENTRAL HARPENDEN HAS TO BE ONE OF THE WORST IDEAS THIS COUNCIL HAS COME UP WITH FOR SOME TIME. DO THEY WANT TO KILL OFF THE TOWN CENTRE? OR DO THEY JUST WANT TO, IN THEIR MINDS, MAKE SOME MORE MONEY FROM US? I CANNOT COUNT THE NUMBER OF TIMES ACROSS THE YEAR THAT I POP DOWN TO THE TOWN FOR A VERY BRIEF VISIT USUALLY AROUND 15 MINUTES FOR SOMETHING AND TO BE CHARGED FOR THIS JUST MEANS I WON'T DO SO - SO BUSINESS WILL BE LOST TO THE LOCAL TRADERS.</p>
<p>I was born in Harpenden and went to school here. After moving away I returned with my young children so that I could be closer to my elderly parents. My mother has passed away and I now care for my father in the "village" where he has lived for over 60 years. I see the community of Harpenden declining and losing its spirit of togetherness. Any proposal that makes it hard for people to access the town centre is another step towards isolating people and separating them. We will see a sad knock-on effect on the smaller shops and services and the profile of Harpenden will shift further from the friendly, caring community it has been. I think the whole plan should be scrapped or, at the very least, a 1 hour free period should be agreed to allow the lonely and elderly to sit and have a cup of tea with their friends. How can this be less important than another money-making venture?</p>
<p>I wholly object to the introduction of parking fees in Harpenden. As someone who is in the town a number of times per week trying to support local business, I am certain that any introduction of additional fees will massively reduce the number of customers in town making it even harder for businesses. Sadly we are losing shops and cafes every day and this is just another nail in the coffin for them. It'll get to the point where we have no high street and therefore the parking fees will be a total waste of time anyway. Harpenden is a wonderful town where people really try their best to support local business, we need to maintain that.</p>
<p>I completely disagree this is needed in Harpenden town centre. Parking enforcement works from my observations when I have parked and the impact on the local businesses will only end in costs being passed onto consumers from the reduced footfall and lower number of people using the services of local shops</p>
<p>The revised proposals are no different really to the original ones. They will damage local businesses and impact negatively on the vibrancy of the town</p>
<p>I strongly object to all changes to parking in Harpenden and this will affect the way I vote in future .</p>
<p>I completely object to this proposal. It will have an adverse effect on businesses and the whole town. People will be unable to pull up and pop in to the shops and so will do online delivery or go elsewhere. The parking around Leyton Green is so widely used and converting it to resident parking is unnecessary. Amazon vans and people mounting the pavements is already scarily common and with the lack of parking this will only make it worse. It will cause carnage as people will park blocking entrances and driveways, blocking pavements and walkways to prevent them paying for parking. This proposal is unnecessary and unneeded. If the council are short of funds they should make cuts elsewhere such as the unnecessary sustainability market which is scarcely attended.</p>

TABLE 2: Emails Received During Consultation Period

By imposing these charges you are destroying the town as people including me, will simply not come into town to shop. We will go elsewhere. Goodbye St. Albans, so very sad.
The current restrictions seem adequate and I can see no advantages in metered parking. Maybe 20 mins free parking , then payment terms started if the council feels obliged to feel it should change the current situation. I feel this is a pointless exercise anyway that could destroy the current balanced retail population.
I completely disagree with any form of removing free parking from Harpenden high street. It will discourage people from coming into Harpenden to shop at the many independent retailers. This in turn will result in many of the retailers going out of business. Harpenden will loose the special feel it has and will result in many empty shops.
I strongly object to the proposed changes to the parking in Harpenden. I live near Peters Green and our only mode of transport to Harpenden is by car. This is penalizing those of us who live in the surrounding villages, and increasing the cost of living, and in many cases taking from those who can least afford it.
I completely object to the proposals of the amendment to the parking restrictions in Harpenden town centre whereby charges are to be applied to the current free short term parking spaces. I often pop into the town centre to drop donations off to the charity shops in town and pick up some groceries whilst there. The charges will certainly deter me from visiting the town.

I'm sure the implementation of these changes will have massively detrimental impact on the businesses as many other customers will be deterred from visiting the town for the same reason. The proposed parking charges are also extortionate and need to be reconsidered. Not everyone in the area is rich, and certainly not those visiting. This will also deter shoppers from visiting. I really do hope these plans are not implemented and you will reconsider.

Please accept this email as a voice of objection to the change of free limited parking bays in Harpenden to paid meter parking. Paid meter parking will be detrimental to all the shops, cafes, library and medical practices in Harpenden.

I am writing yet again to object strongly to the planned changes to parking regulations in Harpenden town centre. I objected to the original plans and I now see that St Albans City and District Council have, due to the overwhelming adverse response to the original plans from the community, now amended them.

I have to say that the proposed amendments are in no way satisfactory and do not address the fundamental complaint I and many others have made.

Any attempt to charge for street parking in recognised, legal parking bays in Harpenden for any period of time of less than one hour has the potential to decimate the High Street and is tantamount to dropping a bomb on the shopping area.

It is not possible to park, walk to a shop (which may be a couple of hundred yards away), complete your shop and return to the car within the 20 or 30 minutes that is suggested. Elderly or disabled residents in particular will suffer and only a small percentage of them have a 'blue badge'.

It will mean that persons will go elsewhere to shop, somewhere they can park at leisure without the fear of finding a parking fine being imposed on them. The shopkeepers of Harpenden will suffer through loss of trade and the independent businesses will either cease trading or move their businesses elsewhere to somewhere that values their trade.

Harpenden is a thriving town with a busy shopping centre and the small-minded, short-sighted plans of the council will have a devastating effect on its wellbeing. The one hour parking works well and is fair for all. I use the town centre regularly and do not in general have a problem parking. There is sufficient turnover in the one hour slots to satisfy everyone.

I for one STRONGLY oppose these plans.

Your proposals will cause significant commercial stress to the Harpenden shops etc. Proper enforcement of the existing regulations would ensure not only the income you crave, but an appropriate turnover in parking.

This is a cynical attempt to further rinse Harpenden resident who already provide a disproportionate proportion on council income.

These proposals will complete the destruction of Harpenden High street as a viable shopping venue.

Crippling business rates have already driven away many of the small independent traders that made the High Street attractive to shoppers

It seems obvious to me that the proposals will not benefit Harpenden at all. They are just an attempt by our Lib/Dem Council to tap into what they perceive as a wealthy town.

A little bit of analysis will reveal that most of Harpenden's residents when shopping for food will either travel to one of the major supermarkets, or, increasingly, order on-line.

This has already happened and has helped to drive change in the High Street towards the bigger chains and even away from food retailing towards coffee shops etc. NOT GOOD FOR THE LONG TERM HEALTH OF THE HIGH STREET AS A SHOPPING VENUE!

Most of the shopping that brings life to the High Street relates to people who suddenly realise they have run out of something that they want straight away rather than waiting for Amazon or eBay to deliver. So they 'pop down' to the High Street. park the car near the shop they want to visit, make their purchase and while they are there visit a few more shops

This is what keeps the stores afloat. If you force people to pay a parking fee they simply won't do it.

Small shops will disappear. The High Street will be less and less attractive and the council will just put up the parking fees to make up the shortfall in their projections and thus accelerate the overall decline.

I write to object to the changes in the strongest possible terms.

My father has been a shop owner in Harpenden since 1978. In this time he has had 2 successive shops. There have been ups & downs of course due to the economy & people shopping so much more online but the shops have weathered the storms. This is due to available footfall. If parking fees are introduced, especially at such a punitive rate, this is likely to significantly reduce footfall as people will only shop quickly for something specific or will instead go to out of town industrial sites with ample parking. As an example I love to park in the high st & wander & browse in the shops. I don't need to do this though & I certainly wouldn't pay just to wander along the high street, so much needed money is instantly lost by small businesses. I, like many others, do not live near enough to walk, and even if I did, having had dodgy joints all my life I need to park near where I am shopping.

I worry for Harpenden's future and urge you to rethink.

I would like to register that other than the conversion of the bays in Leyton Road to residents parking I comply disagree with the proposal.

Charging for parking when a substantial part of Harpenden and surrounding villages have a very limited amount of public transport feels totally at odds with trying to create a vibrant town centre. St Albans District council is completely out of touch with the reality of the small business owner.

Parking charges is not the way to balance your books.

I am writing to comment on the new parking proposals in Harpenden to convert free limited waiting parking places in Harpenden to paid parking places (under the Parking Consultation "Limited Waiting Bays - Modifications - Live Public Notice 11/11/2024-01/12/2024", reference PPB/01.

1. My child attends St Nicholas School (primary) in the heart of Harpenden town centre and these proposals will have a significant negative impact on families and staff at the school.

We have to drop off and collect our children from school twice a day, so only having one free half an hour slot to park in town means that many of us will have to pay at least once a day in order for our children to go to school. Even if we only pay for half an hour, this equates to £237.50 per year to pick up our children from school!

It is not adequate to argue that we should simply walk to school instead, as this is not feasible for many families at St Nicholas. The catchment zone for St Nicholas is very wide, as the immediate vicinity is predominantly retail business, the church and its grounds, and large, expensive housing meaning that there are fewer houses on the doorstep of the school, many of which do not house children who attend our school. As such, many families come from a long distance, some as far as Hemel Hempstead, to attend our school and these parking charges will add a significant and negative financial burden to us, which is even more significant given the rises in the cost of living. We have a broad socioeconomic demographic at our school and these proposed charges will have the worst impact on those who are already struggling in these current economic conditions.

2. These parking charges are the highest in Hertfordshire and will have a highly detrimental effect on the businesses in our town. High street businesses already face intense competition from large retail estates and online shopping enterprises, as well as already having to pay high business rates. One of the main things that has kept our town centre alive is the ability for shoppers to be able to park for free locally and conveniently to pop to the shops and have enough time to browse and spend their money. These proposed high parking charges will significantly deter shoppers from our high street, and will make the out of town retail parks and online shopping options much more appealing. As a result, the businesses, particularly the independent businesses, in Harpenden will lose a significant proportion of their business. With business costs already so high, the loss of any proportion of customers will have a huge negative impact on our high street businesses. Inevitably, the parking charges will lead to so much lost business that many businesses will have to close, leaving shop fronts empty and resulting in significant losses to the council income from the loss of business rates.

I appreciate that the Council considers that it needs to forge ahead with these parking charges; however, I hope that the Council will at least revisit the amounts it proposes to charge and the limit of one half an hour of free parking per day and consider at least reducing the proposed charge amounts and increasing the free half-hour to twice per day.

Dear Parking Team,

Here are my comments on the modified parking proposals for Harpenden

map reference PPB/01 by 02nd December 2024.

1) the modified parking proposals will not help patients at the local doctors surgeries in Harpenden who currently can park for free. They will still have to pay to park. This is a tax on the sick.

2) with the loss of free parking in Harpenden and the extremely high cost of paid for parking my Wife and I will not go into Harpenden but will go elsewhere.

3) The requirement to use parking apps is difficult for the elderly and not everyone has a smart phone. How can they pay for parking? It is discriminatory against the elderly.

4) the reasons for the alleged budget shortfall in the council finances should be published and explained to local tax payers.

As a single parent to 3 young children, two with additional needs, these proposals will actually prevent my visits to town. It isn't always feasible for us to walk and £2.50 an hour is far too much for us to pay! This will take key custom away from local businesses and I'll be more likely to drive to local retail parks to do my shopping (where parking is free). Please don't do it.

There is a general feeling amongst my neighbours in Harpenden that introducing paid parking will be a major inconvenience and will damage the town centre by reducing the business of our high street shops. Many people buy from the local shops rather than placing orders online partly to keep our local shops in business. Restricting free parking to half an hour means that the weekly / twice weekly supermarket shop becomes more difficult and this would tempt people to order a delivery from online retailers - to the detriment of our local shops, which may then have to close. Nobody wants a dead town centre full of empty, decaying sites.

I am AGAINST these proposed changes to parking costs in Harpenden.

It amazes me how you are still considering implementing the changes, given the significant number of people and business against this.

I already pay parking charges in the road I live - this has increased hugely since we moved here 18 years ago (I submitted comments in the past to proposed increases, but of course never received any response, despite requesting this). At that time it was a deterrent for people to park here when they are taking the train. Now it is clearly a money spinner for the council. I already pay large council tax charges, but pay again to park outside my house. To then have to pay another massive hike in parking fees for parking in Harpenden to go grocery shopping is totally unacceptable.

It will also stop me popping in to go to pick something up from the library, chemist, shops- other than my weekly grocery shop, I mainly use parking for these brief periods.

Local businesses are opposed to the proposed changes - it is not clear how you have taken this into account? I fully support and agree with their concerns that these proposals will have a detrimental impact on footfall, when they are already facing difficult trading conditions.

The lack of understanding of the feeling of Harpenden residents and businesses by St Albans council is truly staggering.

Like others, I'm also keen to fully understand where this extra parking revenue will be used within Harpenden? Are your finances sufficiently transparent and granular for residents to be able to view and assess this?

Please acknowledge receipt of my opposition to these changes.

would like for you to record my objection to the proposed charging for the parking bays as per PPB/01.

From personal experience I can assure you that this will lead to the decline of the last few independent businesses on our high street. Please can you confirm whether this is actually your intention?

It will become more advantageous to use alternative out of town facilities where parking is free for 2 hrs . In addition the number of spaces provided in harpenden which is already limited is set to be further reduced by proposed development of the station car park and Waitrose.

I am AGAINST these proposed changes to parking costs in Harpenden.

It amazes me how you are still considering implementing the changes, given the significant number of people and business against this.

I already pay parking charges in the road I live - this has increased hugely since we moved here 18 years ago (I submitted comments in the past to proposed increases, but of course never received any response, despite requesting this). At that time it was a deterrent for people to park here when they are taking the train. Now it is clearly a money spinner for the council. I already pay large council tax charges, but pay again to park outside my house. To then have to pay another massive hike in parking fees for parking in Harpenden to go grocery shopping is totally unacceptable.

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Like others, I'm also keen to fully understand where this extra parking revenue will be used within Harpenden? Are your finances sufficiently transparent and granular for residents to be able to view and assess this?

Please acknowledge receipt of my opposition to these changes.

I wish to OBJECT to the current proposals.

The council modifications to the proposed order will impact the retail businesses in Harpenden and will have unintended consequences which lead to a loss of revenue from business rates as well as making business very difficult in Harpenden.

My points on the following proposals:

Change the start of controlled hours from 08:30 to 09:00 in Harpenden: I agree this is good sense as it supports the school drop off in the town centre primary schools. However, since SADC have rarely sent a traffic enforcement officer to Harpenden before 9am (if at all) then this is not really a change in policy.

Change two twenty-minute free parking sessions and to one 30-minute free session per day. The minimum time should be 1 hour. This will support older residents with mobility issues who do not have blue badges but do not want to be concerned or rushed. It will also support the ability to park and do quick shops. 30 minutes is not enough time to lock the car, walk to a shop or 2 and return. The original proposal; was unworkable since the technology to track cars would inevitably fail.

Chargeable parking periods will be made available in 30-minute sessions. I agree this is positive HOWEVER there must be NO BOOKING FEE for online parking apps.

Postpone the decision on York Road (St Albans) Limited Waiting Bays until the wider review of parking in Zone P which will be on the 25/26 workplan. OBJECT I am not a resident in this area. This should be removed from the wider consultation and the local people in that area. This is not good democracy.

Convert five bays in Leyton Green (Harpenden) to resident bays to relief parking stress. OBJECT: This should be changed to be a limited time when Residents bays are valid.

Instead of proposals that make little commercial sense and will drive shoppers to towns with free parking such as Luton where Gypsy Lane is free and only 10 minutes drive away, the SADC should consider actually enforcing the current parking measures in Harpenden and then review if these measures bring in more revenue:

Have enforcement officers in the town at all relevant times.

Have all parking ticket machines working at all times.

Have a more widely available parking permit which can be purchased annually.

Regarding your parking proposals, I thought that in total 9,000 residents in Harpenden have rejected your proposals along with the local council, as there has never been a proper consultation period just a notice of intention to proceed, despite representation showing that they had not contacted local businesses, St Nicolas's school, with regard to the parents drop off and pick up times of the children and the impact on the patients attending the doctors doctors surgery

Please be aware that Mr de Kore in answer to a potential legal challenge based on the fact that the council had already ordered equipment prior to the consultation period being completed had to seek legal advice and be advised that providing the wording on documents specified no specific mention of where the equipment was to be used then that would avoid a legal challenge from Harpenden and surrounding villages .

A specific question that was asked of Mr de Kore and the council was that if this was the case that it had not been ordered for the new parking proposals the equipment be labelled and segregated to indicate that point and that if any new equipment was to be ordered for Harpenden we should then see a copy of the new quotations.

Other questions that had been asked of Mr de Kore was what were the fines proposed for overstaying the parking period ,what proportion of extra monies raised were being allocated to the proposed increase in councillors salaries, obviously none of these questions deserved a response.

Just to be clear our MP Victoria Collins and her parliamentary offices have been informed of all of the above in detail and at one stage volunteered to speak to Mr de Kore about the segregation of the stored equipment to ensure there was no intention of using it for anything other than replacing like for like worn out equipment ,however it would appear that the new signage equipment

intended to be installed shortly would indicate that indeed the equipment was ordered before the consultation period had been completed and make the e- mail sent by Mr de Kort on the subject worth further investigation.

What has been clear through these whole proceedings is the manner in which St Albans Council thinks it can bulldoze through a proposal without the proper consultation procedure and has take no notice of the practical and business implications for the future , with only one single aim in mind of raising the £200,000 it first mentioned, whatever the outcome.

The most important aspect of this whole saga is not the subject "Parking Charges" but the total lack of acknowledging the democratic process, the very process for which they were elected to serve on the council ,all we have seen is an autocratic attitude on behalf of some of the councillors involved and their lack of willingness to appear in person to explain their reasons for overriding the democratic process which they purport to support.

I disagree with you proposal

My reasons are 3 fold

1. This disadvantages the elderly with limited mobility who are on lower incomes - not just those on pension credit but those on low incomes. If you go into Harpenden mid week and look at the number of frail residents who struggle round the shops and cannot walk far you will see this

2. It will badly hit small shop owners. These people pay rates and if their business fails the Council's income will suffer. More people will shop online or go elsewhere. Overall your income could fall if the High Street declines.

3. The costs are the most expensive in Hertfordshire- unjust!

The parking fees you are proposing are an absolute disgrace and a lazy way of making money. Not every person that shops or stops in harpenden earns a harpenden wage, but it's assumed they do. What a shame and a brash stereotype you have put on the town. And for the poor shops that you already ask too much from. It called cutting off your nose to spite your face. See everything fall in that high street. Surely as a person that uses the same pleasures from enjoying a high street rather than save your own position to save and make money should take priority. Shame on you all as a council.

I notice that changes made from the original proposal are very minimal . This suggests that a decision had been made made and there was no intention to chang it despite several petitions and a consultation with 1500 plus replies .

Has the publication of the number in favour of the proposals been made .? If not a freedom of information procedure will be needed.

How do you propose that people will pay ? We do not all use smart phones . There was a suggestion that an annul permit could be purchased . If so it must be avaiablel to all regardless of age . Payment by monthly instalments (like the Council tax) should be available .. A proposed chargee of about 180 pounds has been floated which seems rather high .

Suggested ways of offsetting the budget deficit have been made . Examples are : reducing times /days open for the museum and public toilets (if a retailer toilet is near) making a rerquest to all paid employees to see if any would accept voluntary redundancy Holding a referendum to raise the District Council tax marginally above the limit of 3 percent (there are precedents for this) —— media reports are that it may be raised to 6 percent .

The result of the recent dy election in Harpenden North which changed from Lib Dem to Conservative indicates hostility to the proposals

I just wanted to give my feedback to the proposal to introduce parking charges to parking in and around High Street in Harpenden. I understand the consultation ends on 01.12.2024
I am opposed to the proposal.
Everyone I know in my town of Harpenden is dead against your intended parking changes. If you go ahead with the changes, the Liberal party will become very unpopular here.
Retailers will be very badly affected, as will shoppers. The High Street has only recently begun to thrive again since COVID, and you now want to reverse that!
Nobody wants your changes, please reconsider them. Shoppers want to park for an hour minimum, so if you must alter the parking we currently have, why don't you make the first hour free, instead of 30 mins?
Any extra income you need could come from a rise in Council Tax instead, or cutting back on council outgoings.
The proposal to change free parking in Harpenden to paid parking will destroy local businesses and have a long term detrimental impact on the town.
Please reconsider this proposal, they seem like minor changes but with devastating consequences.
We are writing in response to the proposed plan to charge for on-Street parking in Harpenden Town Centre. We do not live in Harpenden but visit our daughter and family frequently who do. We are both approaching 80 years old and not as fast or mobile as we would like to be. This usually means we need more time to walk to the shops. It is always a pleasure to shop in Harpenden because of the variety of shops and the kindness of the people. However if we have to pay in the future we will definitely have to reconsider our shopping habits. We would hope you would reconsider your proposal.
Please amend proposals to make it one hour free parking in Harpenden. Far more practical!
I am completely against the new parking charges. Harpenden high street is thriving with independent stores, this will absolutely reduce the footfall and therefore have a negative impact on the retailers. Everyone will be keen to get in and out within the 30 min time limit, so any casual window shopping leading to extra sales will reduce. The cost of the parking seems really high in comparison with like for like areas. In a cost of living crisis why would you do this to people just trying to make a living.
I wish to have my objection to the revised Harpenden onstreet parking scheme recorded.
It will have a seriously detrimental affect on the businesses in Harpenden Town centre. People will shop out of town if these charges are put in place £2.50 for an hour is extortionate and doesn't compare with any of the surrounding towns or villages
More unnecessary street furniture. Notice/ Payment machines
Many elderly harpenden residents do not have smart phones and since the council have taken away the pre paid senior parking permits I assume there will have to be payment machines of some kind or these shoppers will be lost to harpenden too.
I wish to object to the amended parking charges for harpenden. PPB/01
I still think you should just leave the hour free of charge
I do not agree to the these changes at all
This latest survey, like the last parking survey has not been publicised properly at all - so to be fair to residents of Harpenden, the Council should extend the deadline, and make a plan as to how to publicise it throughout Harpenden properly, prior to making any decision, as we are the ones who will be affected, and will be paying an extortionate price to use the facilities of the town as a result. How parents will manage, dropping and picking up children at nurseries, schools and from school buses will manage, I have no idea.

The Council could have emailed/written to residents directly or sent a flyer as they did for recycling through each letterbox.

Many people I know had no idea there was an additional survey at all, and we only found out by whatsapp on Friday night. I forwarded the whatsapp from a neighbour to a large whatsapp group in Harpenden, and only one person had heard of the survey.

The Council shows a total disregard for local democracy over this matter - which is very disappointing since the governing party has the word 'Democrat' in their name.

I hope you will communicate the above to the Council

I wish to lodge our objection to this proposal

This will discourage people from visiting the town and using the shops and cafés, effecting the viability of the retail businesses.

Do we want a non thriving town centre as in many other towns?

This will not help the environment as people will do more journeys to pick up children etc instead of stopping for a coffee or shopping or will just cruise around rather than stopping.

It discriminates against the elderly and disabled with or without a blue badge who cannot walk or cycle into the town centre.

This proposal will put even more pressure on Sainsbury's and Waitrose car parks, the latter of which is threatened by a housing development.

Please find another way to balance the books. It's a very unpopular proposal.

The proposals to charge for on street parking in Harpenden are wholly unacceptable and must be withdrawn. The vast majority of shopkeepers and the majority of Harpenden residents are opposed to their implementation. This is a lazy way to increase council income and we will now never vote for a Liberal Democrat candidate again. As a party you boast about your community roots and representation of community interests.

If you are simply going through the motions on consultation you should be ashamed. If it is genuine then you now need to listen. I expect a personal reply but doubt you will make the effort. That will tell me all i need to know.

Re parking charges in Harpenden

I strongly oppose the parking charges in Harpenden

The town has many people struggling with the cost of living crisis and need to pop into town for supplies.

This will cause less people coming into town and harm businesses that are already struggling

Please do not implement these charges

I am writing as a Harpenden town resident to register my strong objection to proposal PPB/01

I have reviewed the latest amendments to the above proposal re on-street parking in Harpenden.

These appear to be only minor "tweaks" to the original proposal. As such I still find them unacceptable. I document my comments below.

Clearly the scale of objection to the original proposal was huge. I feel sure that those who objected before will still hold the same views.

In the principle of consultation, given the resistance, the council should accept that this is not acceptable and shelve the proposal. This, only slightly amended, version is in no way a reflection of Harpenden residents' views.

In addition, it has been claimed by the council that parking has made losses of around £1.5m over the last 4 years. I now read that this is not a loss at all but a "missed opportunity" to implement higher parking charges earlier! This was a very misleading statement made to make a case.

Please listen to what the local community and traders want and not what the councillors think is good for us.

I reiterate my initial objections below.

This would reduce both Harpenden resident's easy access to the town centre and the scale of proposed parking fees would also deter visitors. It would impact badly on businesses in the High Street Harpenden area. It would divert trade to other towns where parking is more freely available or to out of town shopping parks. Fewer customers would lead to business closures. These are businesses already challenged with high business rates and rent, fuel costs and the growth of on line shopping. Business closures and empty premises leads to a less vibrant town leads to more business closures – a vicious circle - isolated residents and zero community spirit.

We already have to pay higher parking costs in our car parks compared to other areas. This would be an additional cost to residents and would be detrimental to the town centre.

In what way does this proposal support a "Vibrant High Street" and "Thriving businesses" both of which the Council claim are their objectives?

Has this been considered in the whole? If businesses suffer, which undoubtedly they will, and have to close this will lead to more empty premises and a reduction in income from business rates.

The Council hopes that this proposal will "promote active travel". A not insignificant number of the town's population are elderly and have mobility issues. They need easy access to Harpenden's centre and its facilities. They cannot walk a few miles into town and back - or ride a bicycle!

The concept of parking ticket machines will be a deterrent to many of the elderly who do not have smartphones and are not "tech savvy"

30 minutes of free parking is barely enough to achieve even a short task. This would not be sufficient to either queue at the Post Office or Pharmacy, pop into the supermarket for a quick top-up shop or select a book at the library. A minimum of 1 hour free parking on all parking bays is essential.

Charging to park for anything above 30 minutes would impact greatest on those on lower and fixed incomes, the less well off.

If you believe that there are some who are abusing the current system then why not police it properly?

This would increase congestion further away from the High Street as drivers circle looking for available free parking.

I would like to register my complete opposition to the proposed parking charges in Harpenden Town Centre.

I regularly take my 90 year old mother to the Village surgery doctors practice in the town centre and the visit will generally take an hour maybe more if the doctor is running late and this would mean we will need to pay for parking for each visit to the doctor!

Retailers will struggle with falling footfall. The vibrant feel of the town will change as visits will be fleeting with no time to browse or have a coffee. St Albans DC should be putting measures in place to help retailers not imposing parking charges. It is hard for retailers to compete with the internet and charging for parking will make it impossible.

We write to confirm our opposition, in the strongest terms, to the Council's proposal to levy parking charges in Harpenden town centre.

There is a huge body of opinion in Harpenden that the current parking arrangements work well and that there is no need for the council to raise funds in this manner, once again penalising the motorist.

ukl am writing to object to the proposed introduction of parking charges.

The Council's rationale for the introduction of payments appears to be based on little published evidence.

For instance, how can the Council state that they have seen little evidence that the proposed changes will have an adverse impact on the High Street and town centre in general. Have they carried out any surveys? If they have, the findings have not been released. If they haven't, why haven't they?

There are already a large number of empty units in Harpenden. This situation will only be exacerbated by the proposed changes. Nowadays, garden centres, for example, have a retail offering and cafes along with free parking. There are quite a few such garden centres in the surrounding area which are competition to Harpenden town centre. Given the latest tax rises and cut in reliefs imposed by the government, local businesses need all the support they can get.

I work on the High Street and have personally surveyed and recorded the responses of a large number of customers. These results were submitted to the Council and appear to have been summarily dismissed. The evidence we gathered clearly indicates that the changes will have a detrimental impact. They also showed that there is no need to increase turnover of high-demand bays as that is already happening. Nor is there a problem with people parking on the street longer than needed.

With regard to the accumulated losses of £1.5 million, why has the Council not published a clear breakdown of the income and expenditure in the parking budget over the last four years so people can judge for themselves. How much will it cost to implement the new parking charging system and how long will it take to break even? There have been rumours that salaries of senior council executives have been moved into this budget and this is what has caused the problem. Hopefully the Council will be able to demonstrate that this is not the case.

I do not agree with amending reducing the waiting time limits in the parking areas in Harpenden.

As you say, there are 850 charges for bays already for longer stay parking. Therefore there is no reason to implement charging on the 250 free short stay bays, apart from money making and cost saving reasons.

I do not believe that there is significant support for the charging implementation based on all the Facebook and what's app threads posted within the community. I cannot recall having seen any comments favouring the proposal, and I strongly feel that the negative impact is not being overstated - the impact will have a significant and irreparable impact on the high street.

You are certainly right when you say parking is a hugely significant factor in people's visiting behaviour. The option of the current choice of paid or a decent length of time in free bays is what is keeping the high street alive and vibrant.

There may well be no reduction in the number of parking places, but the implementation of charging in these 250 bays will significantly reduce the number of people utilising the town centre and significantly reduce the amount spent in the high street shops.

There is no major difficulty currently in accessing parking in these 250 free bays. Those wanting to stay longer, either park further out of town and walk the last part, or use the paid bays. Those intending on a shorter visit use the free bays. I have lived in Harpenden for 7 years, and it has never taken me longer than 5 maybe 10 minutes at a maximum to get a space in a free bay - and this includes all times of the day and all days of the week.

The impact of visitors knowing they will need to pay, in order to get anything productive done in town, will stop the majority of people bothering to use the highstreet. 20 minutes wouldn't even, in all likelihood enable you to post a parcel in the post office (if you live in Harpenden and use the post office, you will totally understand that this is the case!) The hassle of completing telephone / online payment, ensuring you have coins, not wanting to waste money on parking will put a huge number of people off, and the impact on the highstreet will be irreversible. It certainly will NOT

'get the greater turnover' you have stated. As you say, motorists who want to stay longer 'can already use the four off street car parks nearby', so there is no need to implement charging in these free bays. As I have already stated, from experience, it had never taken me longer than 5-10 minutes at worst, to get a free parking bay space, as there are 250 and for the majority of these the maximum length of stay is 1h, so mathematically, at roughly 4 cars will be leaving every minute.

The possibility of the registration of cars parking is something that the council hasn't made locals aware of, and will be hugely opposed. The system at the train station regularly causes incorrect fines being issued, with the ability to successfully appeal frequently failing. So many residents visit the leisure centre, in particular, many times a day - for their own exercise and then to drop and collect children for multiple clubs that run from there. Uses should not have to be ensuring they have additional ways to prove their visits and length of stays due to incorrect car registration systems that fail so frequently, in order to appeal incorrectly issued fines. Businesses know the free bays are only free for 1 or 2 hours, so if staff are using these for longer periods that is because the parking attendants are failing in their role (as they must not be walking these areas frequently enough for staff to get parking tickets, which would stop them from parking and exceeding the 1 / 2 hour limit). This even more strongly suggests that the implementation of parking charges is a money making, and cost saving exercise, as the council will likely hugely reduce the frequency of parking attendants visits to these areas, of charges are introduced.

I did indeed mention about mobility, and yes, there are several (certainly not too many within the free parking) disabled bays. However, only those with the most significant mobility challenges will have disabled badges. There are a huge number of people who are elderly, or have difficulty with mobility, who do not qualify for a disabled badge, and for whom having free parking bays right in the high street provides them the ability to access the shops easily - this is the group of people who would find it most difficult to complete any small errand within a 20 minute time frame. I have no problem with the current number of disabled bays within the free area, I do have an issue with the fact that the implementation of parking charges will significantly affect the elderly, less mobile and those with young children, who do not qualify for a disability badge.

As I stated earlier, I regularly park in the free bays at different times of the day, and on different days of the week, and have never failed to get a free parking bay when needing one. The maximum time taken to get one, at worst is 5-10 minutes. Therefore I believe your view point that the introduction of charges will be is significant benefit to those dropping off / collecting frequently, being incorrect, especially when taking into account all the points I have already mentioned above.

I feel very disappointed with your reply to my email, as he seems as if your opinion is already made up, and that you are unwilling to seriously consider any of the points I and other locals have made, as having any value or accuracy.

If the council insists on not taking these opinions into consideration, and goes ahead with the implementation, the longer term impact on the town centre will hugely detrimental to both the local people, local businesses and as a result also for the council.

I would like my email to be submitted at any council meeting so all those involved in making final decisions read it beforehand. Please could confirm this will be the case.

As a Harpenden resident, I am writing to lodge my serious concerns around the proposed parking charges for street parking in Harpenden.

We live in north Harpenden so not in walking distance for nipping to the shops. Currently, I stop in Harpenden at least 5 times a week to call to M&S, Sainsburys, many of the high street shops and the library - particularly on the way from nursery pick-ups.

Quite simply, if I am being charged to park my car - I will no longer just 'pop' into Harpenden for a couple of things.

The unavoidable consequence of bringing in parking charges will be to move business out of Harpenden. Why stop in Harpenden and pay car parking when you can park at Luton retail park or London Colney for free.

I love Harpenden as it currently is but the proposed changes will no doubt mean many of the independent businesses ceasing trading and a fall in footfall as those outside of Harpenden will no longer 'call in' to Harpenden - it will kill the livelihood of Harpenden. It will be a real shame to a place which currently has a lovely village feel.

I would much rather that annual council charges per household were increased rather than paying parking charges every time we wanted to enjoy Harpenden and spend money at the local businesses.

I really hope that you take the views of Harpenden residents into account.

I don't know if it is correct or not, but I have heard on the grapevine that there is the possibility of parking charges being introduced in Harpenden town centre, in areas where it is currently free.

I wanted to message just to highlight how strongly I would oppose this. Free parking is a key factor to the high street maintaining its strength. The parking time is limited, so it already ensures spaces are not taken for long periods. It encourages people to stop on the high street, when otherwise they may well save the 'odd jobs / picking up of small items' until they can be done in bulk, potentially in a large supermarket outside of Harpenden.

The availability of free parking in Harpenden was a huge positive when we moved to the area - it makes the town feel welcoming, encourages impromptu stops in town that benefits the shops. It also makes the town feel as if it is helping to support the elderly / those mobility issues / those with young children, ensuring they can access facilities without financial implications.

Parking fees have already been extended in the leisure centre car park - it has pushed parking out onto the residential streets in the surrounding area, to avoid parking charges. It creates an unnecessary, money making feel to the town, which is short sighted as the effect on the local economy by the decrease in throughput and spending in the town will have a huge negative impact.

I'd like to comment that I'm in favour of the parking charges, however, only on condition that Bowers Parade is converted to a pedestrian only road.

With the introduction of charges, that should free up the centre and make it more attractive and enjoyable for people to walk, visit, shop etc. That ultimately is what drives more people to visit in the long run and will actually increase the parking fees. Never think short term, but invest in the future (unlike our government when it comes to businesses).

There could be coffee shops with outside seating if the cars were eradicated.

It's also dangerous and unsightly with cars constantly blocking the way and people walking down the road already anyway.

I have read the consultation paper in respect of the proposal to charge for parking in Harpenden town centre.

I would like to object on the following grounds:

1. This proposal will discriminate against those of us who have trouble walking. I am awaiting a knee replacement, so find it painful to walk into town currently. I do not qualify for a disabled badge, so adding parking charges would simply add to the problems I already experience. Why the charges have to be the most expensive possible seems to be a complete rip off.

2. This does not appear to be joined up in any way with other parking issues Harpenden is likely to be facing going forward. The proposal to build houses on the station car park will leave hundreds of commuters without parking for over a year while the houses are built and then will reduce the amount of parking available, inevitably resulting in car parking becoming chronically short in Harpenden.

Further, the proposal by L&G to build 500 houses by the Spire Hospital will inevitably result in increased parking demands for the station and in the town. Whatever the proposal says, it is highly unlikely that most people can walk to the station or the town from the new development within 15 minutes unless they have a jet pack. This does not appear to have been factored into any proposals.

3. Poor parking in the town and surrounding roads is already a major headache for residents. I fear that there will be an increase in people simply leaving their cars too close to junctions, blocking driveways, or potentially illegally parked on people's drives. Unless there is some increase in traffic wardens who are not simply focussed on fee enforcement in the town centre, the result is likely to be miserable for the tax paying residents of Harpenden, particularly those living closest to amenities.

Not sure if this arrived so resending before 2nd Dec.

Please respond in due course to point 3 senior citizens (not means tested) advance paid permits. Councillors have advised details should be available by end of this year.

I strongly feel that the free parking time needs to be a minimum of one hour to enable shopping and visiting the High Street in Harpenden. 30 mins is not long enough to park, conduct any business and return to your car in time to avoid a ticket. I use the high street several times a week but will be unable to do so if I have to pay each time. The shop keepers will inevitably suffer a reduction in customers which can only have a negative effect on the town. Many local shopping areas already have a number of vacant shops and it is surely in everyone's interest to protect the local shopkeepers.

map reference PPB/01

I really do feel that this plan to charge so much for parking will kill the high street.

I already shop at Aldi on gypsy lane as my food bill is halved, but if I want to pop into town for a coffee I will now go to the out of town garden centres where I can meet a friend and not be charged £5 for the privilege. If I need a birthday present I will go to gypsy lane, as to pay to browse the shops is terrible. If you must make money perhaps start with lower charges so people don't feel the extra payment.

30p for half an hour

60p for an hour

£1 for an hour 30

Surely you would make more money by people over running there allotted time. Also you wouldn't have such a big objection towards the payment. Going from nothing to the most expensive high street parking in Hertfordshire is ludicrous.

I really do feel that the high street will suffer and you will have to compensate the shop owners.

I would like to formally object to paid parking being introduced into Harpenden High St.

The town has a busy thriving high street enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

By introducing paid bays, this will kill the buzz of the town, deter anyone from popping into the shops in Harpenden and put lots of small businesses at risk of closure and jobs at risk.

This makes absolutey no sense.

Please reconsider introducing these charges as they will benefit no one.

I have to say I am absolutely appalled to see the proposal to the changes in on street parking in harpenden.

Not only is this the highest charges proposed in Hertz, but it will not encourage the local economy. Disgrace.

If this proposal is to go ahead, it just proves that the council does not have the best interest of the people it is responsible for.

Change can be good, but it needs to be correct change; this is a massive step backwards.

It has been brought to my attention that you will be charging to park on Harpenden High Street. As someone who lives just outside Harpenden it has been a great asset being able to nip to Harpenden and park for free so you can nip to some shops or banks when they were there. having pay to park is squeezing the quick shopping trip out of day to day life. Why when you want something that might be £2 say a card and now have to add parking charges. I'm positive that the shops will suffer again and slowly you will kill off the little thriving town that Harpenden is. So many people benefit from the close parking to the shops. You will force them into the car parks much further out from the shops.

I feel very strongly that, even with the revised 30minutes free parking per day, elderly people and those with young children are being discriminated against! Unless these two sectors can get close to the shop they intend to visit, they cannot easily do much in 30 minutes. If they have an eye test or are visiting a doctor, they will probably exceed the 30 minutes. Going for a shopping trip to by presents, etc. will not be viable.

There seems to be a thought amongst the councillors and staff at the Council, that all residents in Harpenden are wealthy. This is not the case! Even those with medium sized houses do not necessarily have much cash! Just because house prices are ridiculously high, does not make for wealth! Many pensioners are not finding it easy with all of the current increases in foodstuffs and day-to-day necessities.

I also feel very concerned for small shopkeepers. My wife and I will NOT be shopping in Harpenden in future and many of our, equally old, friends feel the same. We used to have a Senior Citizens car park pass, but this will no longer be available as we are not on benefits. With this no longer available and charges for parking on the roads, we simply cannot afford to shop in the town.

Next you will be charging blue badge holders!

I am writing to express my support for the paid for parking system in Harpenden. The current state of parking is unsustainable and this proposal would make a marked improvement.

I strongly object to removing the free parking in town.

Businesses need support and without them they won't pay business rates etc which will affect the local economy- as well as employ people etc.

Then it totally will destroy and change the high street.

It is a greedy idea from a council with little interest on how the residents feel.

You are motivating this change by the current financial climate and the losses of £1.5m on the parking services, yet you have failed to provide a detailed justification of how these losses happened in the first place. You also have failed to detail the measures you have taken to prevent such losses from occurring, before asking for more funds. Furthermore, you are talking about these measures as a way to encourage walking and cycling to shops. However, you have not done anything to effectively support cycling – there are no cycle racks nor cycle paths worth speaking of in the areas where the shops are in central Harpenden."

Dear SADC desk,

I am very sad at the way our village and town centers are having their character and hearts ripped out.

For the sick and elderly who have to visit the doctors surgeries in the village it would mean paying these extortionate prices to park for an appointment. Even then, one hour may not cover the wait as the doctors through no fault of their own, invariably over run.

It is going to make Harpenden centre dead, with regards shopping. Agreed estate agents and restaurants will flourish, but these are not necessary the only places needed by the whole community. These proposals to charge for parking will begin the decline with shops already paying premium prices in business rates, they will be forced to close down.

One glaring difference between Harpenden and St Albans is that Harpenden is not a tourist city it is just a town, even 'the village' to many of us. St Albans must have very many nonresidents visiting every year and this can justify charging for parking.

I would be very pleased to hear how not charging for parking in Harpenden is costing the SADC money. More likely, it seems that the people making these decisions see it as a way to recover their poorly managed spending over the years and we are seen as an easy target.

I object to this most strongly. I believe it will impact people's lives and the high street.

Residents will be driving round seeking 30 minute spots. Especially at school drop off / pick up times

Shops and salons will lose trade especially tough on independent ones and charity shops.

We have 2 doctors surgeries in town patients will have to pay for parking to visit.

Residents will choose to go food shopping out of town where they get free parking therefore increasing traffic on the roads.

Meet ups - younger mums / older people who are who socialise in town will no longer do that. Why would you pay an extra £5 for a coffee ? Or £2 50 for a visit to the library.

I think this proposal has not been thoroughly thought out

I am a local business owner in Harpenden.

I feel the parking proposals are crazy. This will massively impact the retailers or Harpenden. I feel a happy medium would be to have 1 hour free parking, and also in the car parks as the prices are currently absurd. Currently there are no provisions for staff parking. For me to park in the nearest car park it is £16.20 for the day!!

I really don't feel like the proposals have been properly thought through, I just feels like a quick money grab from the district council.

I'm emailed to disagree to the plan of paid parking on our high street.

This will affect the use of businesses in the area. The shops have already been affected by the lack of Christmas lights up (cancelled due to storms) and competition of local shopping areas with no paid parking.

We only have to look at the empty shops already on our high street.

From my own personal point of view paid parking makes me avoid use of areas.

I now do the majority of my supermarket shopping outside area due to the increase at Sainsbury's in Harpenden.

(Previously Harpenden was my go to.)

I work in Hitchin and can see that our charges are significantly higher, and their shopping range has a lot more choice.

Please don't kill our high street,

There's few enough reasons to shop in Harpenden already...don't make it worse.

Parking for restaurants and going to the chemist etc is hard already....if it's going to cost that much, I'll just go elsewhere.

Resident of Harpenden.

It is difficult to understand why 2 x 20 mins should be replaced by 1 x 30 mins. This is a backward step which still fails to address the needs of frail or elderly people, who may well need more than 30 mins in town. And it is perverse to use consultation as an opportunity make life more difficult for residents, rather than easier. My earlier objection regarding the needs of Harpenden retailers has not been addressed. Many of them are struggling and these changes will make life harder for them. Harpenden has already lost the variety of shops which were once available. It would be a great pity to see the high street given over to chains, j

I note that there is now a proposal to limit parking in the currently free, mostly 2 hour limited bays. I feel that an hour would be more practical. 30 minutes is insufficient time to do anything and will have a negative impact on local business and push traffic into other residential streets.

I wish to object to the revised proposals for parking charges in Harpenden.

These are just a ' tweaked ' version of the original plans and in some aspects are even worse than the previous proposal.

The Council is supposed to work for the people who elected them so why are you continuing to ignore the will of the people of Harpenden ?

You have had the consultation but didn't like the result - please listen to your constituents !

I wholly support the plans and the sensitive and responsive nature of the changes that help alleviate the impact, but continue with reasonable parking fees that are quite acceptable in current times and may even help reduce the awful number of cars blocking our town centre.

I have no objections to paying for Parking, it's necessary to control capacity, but you absolutely HAVE to have a decent app for payment or working contactless machines. Most of them are awful.

And a working app means working mobile reception. This too is terrible in Harpenden. So this is another can of worms you'll open. Has this all been thought through?

I would like to inform the St Albans District Council of my disappointment and concern over the proposed new charges to parking in the high street.

I have lived here for 28 years, and feel your proposal would be detrimental to the livelihood of the shop owners. People just cannot afford these ridiculous prices, why do other towns have free parking or very cheap parking rates but Harpenden will be far too expensive. The majority of people just come to town for a quick shop of an hour or meet friends and family for a stroll around the town, after all that's what makes a community. Please reconsider, everyone I have spoken to feel the same.

I wish to strongly object to the proposal to convert free limited time parking bays in Harpenden town centre to paid bays. I believe this proposal will be to the detriment of the town centre, local shops and traders. Also causing further traffic congestion around the town centre.

Further to my previous email I am totally against your latest proposals for a £2.50 charge to park kerbside in various roads around Harpenden town centre. As well as being a ridiculous idea the cost of monitoring this would cost the District Council more than the monies collected. I for one would increase my shopping on line or shop at out of town centres.

I have been informed of the proposed parking changes and charges by a business in the town not by any other means!

I feel that this charged parking will greatly affect the town detrimentally.

Parents picking up children from school will be penalised as they have to pick up and drop off and only one 30 minute session per day is to be allowed!!

How is this going to be policed as it were?

My other concern is that people WILL STILL BE ALLOWED to park on double yellow lines on a Sunday when all the shops etc are open and not use the car parks as they have to pay and this can be quite dangerous. Surely the same parking restrictions should be used on a Sunday as the rest of the week!

Some poorer people in our community, and there are some, will find having to pay difficult!

The senior citizens car parking permit being means tested now is also an issue that has met with dismay!

Just a few of my thoughts

I felt the need to write in as this proposed parking changes will make life so much harder for our family. My parents are slender my with low income and cannot walk into town. They cannot afford more costs and thus will simply stop them from coming into town.

I have 3 kids who do lots of clubs in town and being able to drop off easily often multiple times a day has been so helpful. Having to now pay for drop-offs will be a big disincentive to carry on some of these clubs. We'll also stop doing our shopping in town and go to larger out of time places qheee we can do more and park for free.

If feels like this will just push people away and make life harder and all three generations of our family at negatively affected. How is this helping us?

I am writing in opposition to the changes in parking in Harpenden. The free 2 hour parking is key to keeping the high street vibrant and busy.

I object to all the proposed changes.

I would like to object most fervently to the proposed changes.

Please instead consider that planning for more and more houses in Harpenden should be restricted until proper facilities (medical/educational/railway parking) have been put in place.

I find it puzzling that public servants propose this change to our town.

When our high street is hit with ever increasing costs, a reduction in free parking will have a massive impact on the footfall, no longer will people pop into either browse or do impulse shopping. I genuinely feel for any business trying to make a living and who would consider investing in one of our empty shopping spaces.

A short sighted decision will have a huge impact on our town.

I would love to hear your rationale and what advantages you see that I can't.

I oppose the level of parking charges because of the certain detrimental effect that it will have on local businesses.

I understand that overall parking in Harpenden is going to be markedly reduced with the sale of the Waitrose car park, and the proposed building and associated disruption caused by the proposed work in the station car park. This will be a problem for local businesses.

I love Harpenden town centre - I walk there almost every day and I would be immensely saddened to find businesses closing because of reduced footfall due to a reluctance by customers to pay for parking. I regularly go for coffees, especially in the small independent shops like Silver Palate, Eight Ounce and Brad + Dills. I buy food from the local Waitrose and Sainsbury's and enjoy a lovely lunch or treat with a coffee and these will cost too much with your planned parking cost increase. I fear that when parking is a similar price to a coffee or a cake, customers will drive back home without stopping off.

The price is too high. I understand money must be found somewhere but the current proposals are far too expensive and will adversely and rapidly impact our great mixture of shops.

I believe Harpenden shops and businesses will suffer...and Library. People will avoid shops and go elsewhere. Encourage use of the Hopper.

Discourage use of cars by offering other alternatives.

Please accept this email as an objection to the ludicrous changes you are planning to make to parking in harpenden. How to kill a high street in one easy step!

I've lived in harpenden all my life and enjoying popping into town and make the most of my local shops. I used to go to St albans but since parking charges have increased there dramatically over the years I no longer go due to costs. Why in hemel can I pay £1.60 for 2 hours yet you are proposing a huge amount more.

Whilst harpenden is an affluent area - not all of us have this amount of money to keep spending on unnecessary parking charges.

There simply must be other ways to generate money for the council. Or perhaps cut unnecessary spending in other areas.

Map reference pub 01

Harpenden parking charges

Please do not add parking charges to Harpenden high street. You will kill the high Street! I have already heard people talking about driving to Luton retailnn by park for coffees and suchlike to avoid parking costs. People who come to Harpenden won't bother if this goes ahead. We moved here because of the high street and you are going to destroy it with these charges.

I have to park on the streets when I go to the gym because I have to do certain classes for medical reasons which go over the two hours free parking. I couldn't afford to pay parking as well as my gym membership.

As a mother of three it can take half an hour to get my young children out of the car and toileted before we have even attempted to get them food or do a shop.

Please consider the effect that your plans will have on our town. It will ruin the pull to Harpenden!

I hope that you consider peoples views very seriously.

I am vehemently opposed to the proposed, amended plans for parking charges in Harpenden. They will have a significant negative impact on the town's commerce and the retailers agree.

I strongly feel this charging method will severely affect local trade in the High Street

30 mins is nowhere near enough time to park, walk, purchase and return before being issued a ticket. There is often a queue at the pharmacies or post office. It will stop people browsing and purchasing on impulse as drivers will be clock watching and hurrying back. A disastrous decision for local shopkeepers who are already finding it so difficult to compete with online purchasing

A free hours parking is the minimum requirement to maintain some level of foot fall in the High Street.

Call me naive but I thought Councils served the public - not the other way round ? What is the point of consultations (yet another one !) when the result is not accepted or ignored ? It's supposed to be a democracy not ' we hear what you're saying but we are going to do what we want anyway ! ' The revised plans are just a tweaked version of the previous plans that the Council think we won't realise - do they think people are stupid ? There was a consultation - we've had the result now do what the people who vote you in want PLEASE !

Hi, I would like to object to the proposed parking charges in Harpenden town centre, I think it will unfairly affect small local businesses and is an unfair extra cost for local residents at a time when we are all facing a cost of living crisis. All I and others see it as is a revenue raising exercise for the council!

It's too late now but I'd also like to voice my displeasure at the hideous ugly black posts erected around town for the Xmas lights, how much did that lot cost?! Total waste of money and an eye sore!

I have been a resident of Harpenden for nearly 40 years and feel I must voice my concerns regarding the proposed parking charges, that I believe could fundamentally destroy the town I love.

The proposed removal of free parking spaces in Harpenden town centre in favour of parking meters seems to me to show a complete misunderstanding of the community that supports the town's retailers, cafés, restaurants and community services. I am one of many retired people who regularly shop in the town and meet friends for coffee and a chat. Personally I visit the town practically every day, sometime twice a day if I am involved in activities in the evenings. If I am expected to pay for parking every time I come into town I may have to seriously reconsider my current lifestyle.

But setting my personal circumstances aside, there are two serious issues that the council really need to consider carefully:

Many of the most regular users of the town and its services, in particular the elderly and disabled, are not willing or perhaps capable of operating a mobile phone app, which I understand is the proposed method of payment for the car parks and parking meters. This could seriously impact the lives of the older members of the community who rely on visiting the town centre to maintain their health and wellbeing.

There are a considerable number of charity shops and other services, e.g. the Library and the new museum, that rely on volunteers to keep them operational. If these proposals go ahead, those volunteers will almost certainly find parking in the town prohibitively expensive and may decide to volunteer their services elsewhere. The result could be catastrophic for charities that already have issues with recruiting volunteers.

My concern is that a set of proposals predicated on raising funds for the council could virtually destroy Harpenden Town Centre as we know it. If people decide to boycott the town because of the parking charges, the various businesses, already working to tight profit margins, will simply close. The town will be desolated and by the time the council realise their mistake it will be too late to save it. It has happened in other places and it will happen here if these ideas are not reconsidered.

I object to these proposals, i have done detailed responses before but i can't see how to do this for this one. Parking charges will make life so hard for so many, please find another way to make up for your budget poor management, this is not the way

I wish to voice my opposition to the changes, I view it as another greedy tax on the motorist and local businesses will suffer,

I understand many feel this way yet you are not listening to these views,

Please cancel these changes

In regards to parking restriction being proposed again. I cannot understand how this is still a plan when the previous continuation had a 95% objection?

This will wipe out a vibrant town of small businesses, where there is already extortionate business rates and high council tax. This is going to have a detrimental impact on both businesses and residents in the town centre and I really hope you can do the right thing to intervene and put a stop to this. T

There have been no figures to show how this proposal will plug the debt the council is expecting. Has anyone done an in depth survey/ analysis of footfall/ parking in the area which could be presented to the council in line with the charges/ economic consequences it will have?

1200 people completed initial consultation and 95% were against proposals stating concerns of negative impact on local retailers and businesses amongst other points. As said before, how is this not taken into consideration?

If this goes ahead Lib Dem's will lose the Harpenden town just on the basis of lack of transparency to a proposal that has caused so much anguish and anger in Harpenden.

Please reconsider this absurd tax on local residents and the local shops. You are going to kill our high street like so many other towns just so the council can get more money.

I object strongly

I strongly object to the harpenden parking proposals and believe them to be shortsighted in the extreme. they will lead to less footfall in the already struggling high street shops and be to the detriment of the town as a whole.

I attach my objection to the revised proposals to impose charges for on-street parking in Harpenden town centre.

I am writing in response to the modified proposals my views are as follows:-

1) the restriction of only 1 30 minute free parking session per day is unreasonable it is unlikely that this can be clearly communicated to people wishing to park especially to those outside of the area.

2) it will mean that I will not go to Harpenden to use the High Street shops unless absolutely necessary.

3) I am assuming that users will predominantly be required to pay by app which I do not wish to do.

4) The comment made by the Council that residents accept that the charges have to be made to allow the Council to raise funds is wrong. I certainly regard this as an additional tax as was the charging for green waste collection which has been increased regularly by more than inflation.

Another stealth tax.

5) I do not believe that this proposal was highlighted as policy in the recent elections.

Hi, I would like to object to the proposed parking restrictions. One of the nicest things about living in Harpenden is not just the green space, but the fact that – unlike so many other areas – we have a thriving High Street which has independent shops and is consistently busy. To now actively discourage people from visiting is hard to comprehend, especially when parking has never been a problem in the first place. Until recently, we have also had a fantastic atmosphere with food vans (like Emilio's) outside Boots that have also been slowly disappearing – again, for no logical reason – and again seemingly due to Town Council objections. All these recent actions seem to be to the detriment of the town, which does not make any sense. We should be encouraging people to visit the town and spend their money in the shops/cafes, not on parking.

Please stop trying to change a system that works. Your proposed changes will kill Harpenden High St. This will drive traffic to use other out of town shopping areas with free parking & there will be a steady decline to the High Street much like what I've witnessed in St Albans High street. The elderly & those with mobility issues will be disproportionately affected as they need to be able to park near to the shops & shouldn't be charged for this necessity.

Where should residents visiting doctor's surgeries park? Appointments often run late & 30mins will not be long enough to cover an appointment over run.

What we currently have available, keeps Harpenden vibrant and busy. It's a lovely town centre. When the free parking on the High St was blocked post covid restrictions being lifted, it massively affected the flow and business suffered.

Stop trying to fix something that isn't broken.

I look forward to this planned change to parking in Harpenden being stopped.

I strongly object to the implementation of parking charges for kerbside parking in Harpenden. We are supposed to be supporting the high streets and small independent shops cafes etc. the proposed charges will just put people off coming into Harpenden and the high street will die.

Currently Harpenden is a pleasant place to live and the high street plays it's part in creating an attractive and appealing hub.

People will still use cars to go to out of town venues so even more petrol will be used rather than the short pop into town.

As I understand it there is widespread opposition to the charges.

In consultation with the townspeople it seems you have made virtually no change to the original plans.

As I also understand it the charges to be imposed will be the highest in herts.

Has any work been done to monitor footfall in the town before and after. Will you be publishing the costs of the scheme.

I find it very difficult to obtain information from the St. Albans council website. I have written to you about this also.

I see no justification for the proposed changes re the above.

Currently Harpenden has a good flow of parking availability both on the street and off street public parking. This is essential for shoppers and retailers and to preserve the atmosphere of the town.

Why fix something which is not broken?

I wish to register my objection to the proposed new parking restrictions in Harpenden. I have lived in the town for over 50 years and agree the traffic has increased, but that is happening everywhere. The proposed charges will not help to mitigate the congestion. At present we know we are restricted to one hour and if we intend to be longer we go to a car park where we are charged. The new restrictions will increase the numbers parking vehicles for a longer period on the street thus decreasing the number of parking places available for short periods! This will increase the congestion NOT alleviate it. PLEASE TAKE A FURTHER LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS THIS SCHEME WILL CREATE and think about the congestion and not treat the people of Harpenden as a pot of gold!!

I strongly object to the parking charges as not only will it directly affect me as I rely on being close to the shops due to my disability. I don't have a blue badge as I have Fibromyalgia and my mobility varies.

The other reason is that this would be very detrimental to the shops in Harpenden, a lot of the shops have high rental fees and rely on local people for their trade. If this goes ahead, there is no incentive to use the Harpenden shops as other towns have far more variety of shops.

I write with reference to your email to me dated 8th November 2024.

I have studied your proposed amendments to the proposed TOR and have the following comments to make by way of continued OBJECTION to the revised proposals.

1. My original objections to the TOR in their entirety remain pertinent as the amendments have not adequately addressed any of my principal concerns. The amendments do not diminish or adequately address Harpenden's residents and businesses concerns in any way whatsoever. In fact they have lessened the so-called 'benefits'.
2. These proposals have no basis of validity other than what appears to be an almost spiteful vendetta against the desires of our local community to retain something precious to us that undergirds the vibrancy and vitality of our town centre.
3. My understanding is that these proposals are driven solely by a political desire to plug a financial shortfall. It is my understanding that this shortfall could be met by other means rather than delivering negativity to our town centre at a time when we should be seeking to revive and develop our High Street and address the cost of living challenge.
4. The District Council seem to have totally ignored the survey evidence gathered by local traders regarding the damaging effect and adverse impact that these proposals will have on the wellbeing of our local economy and environment. Frankly, the proposals are a disgrace which, if implemented, will cause our community to unnecessarily suffer for years to come and drive away trade.
5. There are many flaws and inconsistencies in the proposals as originally put forward and as now amended. There obviously has been inadequate scoping and a lack of any meaningful and proper impact assessment. I wonder whether in fact they are lawful?

6. The parking issues in Harpenden appear to be wrongly conflated with issues that pertain in St.Albans. Each centre should have a bespoke approach recognising the characteristics of each situation and the views of that location's residents and traders which will inevitably be different in each instance.

7. The parking development team seem to have wholly ignored suggested and workable alternative solutions put forward by Harpenden Town Council and others which would more readily suit the particular circumstances of Harpenden and address some of the current shortcomings of the existing arrangement and its enforcement. A lot more consideration should have been given to well stated local needs and aspirations. These proposals are regressive and not in line with both your own local planning policies and national planning guidelines which seek to strengthen and not diminish the viability and vitality of our town centres.

8. It is likely that the operational aspects of these proposals will be discriminatory towards the elderly, the disabled without Blue Badge, the app/computer illiterate, those who choose not to have smart phones or are unable to operate them. In particular please advise whether:

a) All the chargeable parking bays can be paid for by cash and card as well as by 'phone or app?

b) There will be a grace period before penalties are applicable and what that will be?

c) The method of enforcement and use of ANPR cameras etc?

d) Can you give categoric assurances that these proposals are not discriminatory towards those mentioned above and that payment systems will respect all needs?

9) What will be your privacy policy?

There is a lot of ill feeling towards the District Council concerning these regressive proposals and I wish to add my name, as a long standing resident of Harpenden and as a former High Street trader, to the list of those who appeal to the better sense of the District Council to re-think these proposals and work more closely with the community and the Town Council in coming forward with something less impactful and discriminatory.

Please acknowledge receipt of these comments under the current parking TRO consultation procedure.

We wish to inform you of our dismay of your proposals for imposing charges during working hours.

This will have a very serious detrimental affect on the business communities working in the Town and deter people visiting the town to shop and purchase food and to partake of hospitality in the restaurants public house etc.

The town will lose business trade custom etc and the income produced by charging will be lost as a result of people going elsewhere.

It's a very retrograde proposal and should be abandoned.

I strongly oppose the revised parking restrictions as this will impact many residents in Harpenden. Many residents are elderly and rely on the ability to shop in the local vicinity and do a quick shop. In a rural area it appears that St Albans council are simply increasing taxes and placing further burden on the tax payer. Residents already pay annual parking in residential roads and where this is the case this just increases the cost on top of an already expensive annual council tax.

Not withstanding this the restrictions will impact the many independent local shops who rely on local residents for their businesses to survive.

The very small changes to the , universally condemned, original proposal to charge for on-street parking in Harpenden Town Centre provides very marginal modifications to a policy which is ill conceived, under researched and quite wrong for a town like Harpenden.

Unlike larger towns and cities, Harpenden is not a destination town, it is a community and the bulk of the users of its town centre infrastructure are residents of the town, albeit most beyond walking distance: it is their 'local' centre. The majority of retail, hospitality, personal care and even primary education is within the proposed parking charges area and residents have few if any alternatives.

Legitimising the opposition to the scheme, now little altered, virtually 100% of respondents and petitioners evidenced the negative impacts expected on businesses in particular. SADC's challenge to these predictions is completely unsubstantiated whereas evidence is available to prove exactly the opposite--

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2212012214000495> is an example.

Parking cannot be viewed as a separate 'cost centre' when the expected downturn in retail economic activity will undoubtedly produce the counter effect of substantial lost revenue to SADC and government under other heading including business rates,

The revised proposal goes no way towards ameliorating the forecast negative outcomes and the whole scheme should be abandoned.

This email is to voice our strong objection to introducing parking charges in the town centre . In Harpenden there is already a lack of parking spaces . The impact on shops will be significant . There is hardly no bus services for the north of the town to the centre , services primarily along the main high street road to Luton . Harpenden has an ageing population , many pensioners who have to drive to visit the centre. If the purpose of introducing this is find a shortfall in funding for St. Albans itself and not Harpenden it is a disgrace and any money raised if introduced should be entirely be spent in Harpenden on road maintenance and services .

Changing the free parking on the streets of harpenden will impact the local businesses and local people who will stop using the lovely shops and facilities that harpenden has to offer . People like my small community in Chiltern green who live just outside harpenden come into the town for most of our needs as we live in a rural community and always need to park for a short stay . This will severely impact us and others who live too far away to walk in and get all our stuff! Please don't change the free parking please .

I strongly object to the new proposal of introducing payed parking in Harpenden City centre due to detrimental impact on the small retail business in Harpenden.

Im no happy , I live locally and work locally , I'm outrage by parking charges.

You let to build lots of home and did not create more parking spaces. How are you looking after people who don't have such a massive income.

My oldest neighbour used to drive to the shops and do her shopping now on a top of it she can't pay parking. It all add up she is old and she won't be able to do it in 30 minutes . If you go down to have your hair done or dentist 2 hours should be free.

I used to work at local school and people who commute from near by villages don't have spaces to park (you are refusing to give them allocated parking) now you are asking people who are on minimum cages to pay ????? You should be ashamed of yourself.

It is unrealistic all the builders in Harpenden they parked as they pleased all over pavement (daily occurrence on Milton Road , 14 car illegally park) same in town in Harpenden high street
People are parked on pavement so you don't stand the chance to go with buggy.

Hire a parking officer and raise money that way .

You also building more flats at train station car park (you just need to rethink)

While it is a good thing that parking time periods will begin at 30 mins and go up by 30min intervals, I do not think five parking bays should become residents parking bays.

Proper provision should be made by developers for residents parking as part of their planning permission. It is not acceptable to cut down the number of public parking spaces in such a busy area of the town as Leyton Green. I do not give my support for this change.

I want to voice my opposition to the proposed parking charges in Harpenden.

First of all the website was extremely difficult to navigate so I chose to email instead. I imagine many others of us will have just given up, so less responses I think does not equate to less resistance but more a result of a website that makes it unfriendly to use.

Secondly, the proposed charges would cause more traffic as more people will drop off and pickup as opposed to staying in town and consequently spending more money in our local shops.

So I'm introducing these charges we will be looking at more congestion, less money spent, and ultimately more road rage and aggression in a heavily pedestrianised village.

Please confirm receipt of email.

Appreciate you need to raise revenue. Also some environmental benefits.

The impact on the retailers in the High Street will be very significant though and we will end up with the more interesting businesses failing.

It would be better if the first 30 minutes of paid parking was only £1.

Could you please extend the free waiting time to one hour instead of 30 minutes for the sake of parents with children, the elderly, those of limited mobility and disabled motorists.

Have pity on all the people who live in or come to Harpenden who are dreading these changes to the hitherto flexible parking.

The proposals will seriously impact local retailers as customers will drive to towns with retail parks. I don't park in Harpenden that often as I live near the town centre, but due to onset of severe arthritis, I fear I will need to in the future as carrying shopping is becoming more difficult. Many older people are wary of using parking apps due to fear of scamming and lack of technical knowledge.

Good evening,

Referring to the proposals set out within the above noted plans:

This would significantly impact our local businesses and will excelerate the face of our high streets changing for the worse. Bearing in mind our local community, job losses and the elderly who rely on our shops; I cannot see how the benefits of St Albans council raising funds could outweigh these very obvious negative impacts.

Whilst the delay and amendments are welcome improvements, the desire to charge residents for parking, for less than half an hour, in our own town centre strike me as nothing more than a cynical revenue raising exercise.

Please can you help me to understand who ask for paid parking to be introduced and why it is considered necessary? I appreciate that it does cost the Council money to maintain the town centre but don't residents already contribute enough to cover these cost?

The inconvenience caused and resulting resentment massively outweigh the net income these charges will bring in.

I urge you to reconsider these ill conceived charges.

I am completely opposed to this for various reasons:

I have ME/CFS so I drive into Harpenden and use these parking bays. I don't work due to my health and the pricing that is being proposed is 'off the scale'! It will stop me using these bays and I will probably end up driving further afield to 'out of town' shops. Our local shops will miss out and there will be a greater turnover of businesses in the town. You are not helpful those businesses and it is not a great look for Harpenden.

I object in the strongest terms to the new car parking charges to be introduced in harpenden - this will kill our high street, and force local businesses which have been operating for generations to shut.

I can't believe I voted Lib Dem only for you to do this - never again.

I wish to object to the proposed new parking restrictions on the following grounds:

1. There is already a woeful lack of parking spaces in Harpenden so further restrictions make no sense
2. At least two twenty minute free parking slots per day allows people to drop someone off and pick them up later - although this is restrictive enough - one 30 minute slot makes this impossible
3. 30 minutes allows no real time to achieve anything by the time you park, walk to the shop you want and walk back
4. The proposed charges, where applicable, are hugely inflated and unreasonable, discouraging people from visiting the town centre and using local shops and cafes etc.
5. IN SHORT this whole scheme will hasten the death of our highstreet due to lack of footfall for both locals and visitors.

Just writing to strongly object to the proposals to change the free parking in harpenden (limited waiting bays).

I would personally invest more time and effort into putting lines in the existing bays to help those who take up more than one space to see where they can park, rather than taking up more than one space.

I believe that the existing proposals will be detrimental to the small business owners.

At the moment most people only pop into harpenden for around 30m to grab prescriptions, pop to the shops to collect forgotten food items, have coffee with a friend etc.

Making the changes to make people pay for parking and limiting the number of waiting spaces is not supported by me.

I am writing to formally object to the proposed introduction of parking charges after 30 minutes in Harpenden. While I understand the need for some level of regulation and financial planning, I believe they are another stealth tax on local residents and this decision will have significant negative consequences for the local community, businesses, and visitors. The overall affect will be that people will shop elsewhere and damage the high street and local facilities. Please consider the following points:.

1. ****Increased Financial Burden on Residents and Visitors****:

For many, the introduction of parking charges will impose an unnecessary financial burden, particularly for those who rely on short-term parking for errands or appointments. In times of rising living costs, this will further strain household budgets, especially for those who may need to park multiple times a week for essential activities.

2. **Impact on Local Businesses**:

Local shops and businesses may suffer as customers may be deterred from visiting due to the prospect of paying for parking after a short period. This can reduce foot traffic and negatively impact trade, particularly for small businesses that rely on quick, convenient visits.

3. **Increased Traffic and Congestion**:

If people are discouraged from parking due to the charges, it could lead to more vehicles circulating in search of free parking, contributing to higher traffic volumes and congestion. This would be counterproductive to efforts to reduce local traffic and promote smoother traffic flow.

4. **Inconvenience for Healthcare and Other Essential Services**:

Many residents, especially elderly individuals and those with mobility issues, rely on short-term parking for visits to healthcare facilities, such as doctors' appointments. The introduction of parking charges could lead to added stress, particularly for individuals already dealing with health concerns.

5. **Negative Environmental Impact**:

Increased traffic from drivers searching for free parking can lead to more emissions, undermining efforts to reduce the local carbon footprint. Encouraging more efficient use of space and reducing congestion should be a priority, but this proposal will likely have the opposite effect.

I urge the council to reconsider this proposal and consult further with the community before moving forward with any plans that could negatively affect the area. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Hello St Albans Council Parking Development Team

I am writing to strongly object to the Limited Waiting Bays proposal PPB/01

I have been a resident in Harpenden for over 30 years and parking spaces in Harpenden town centre and surrounding roads included in the proposal are vital to the town's survival as a retail and leisure location.

The imposition of parking charges in these areas will make residents decide to go elsewhere for their retail experience and leisure activities during the day. A 30 minute free parking time once a day is no way near enough for residents and visitors to complete their shopping and leisure activities. For example at Sainsburys in Harpenden, shoppers need time to complete their supermarket shop and for many of the independent shops in the town centre 'browsing' is an essential part of the retail experience before purchase. This takes time!

I fear that the town centre, already with many empty premises, will lose its appeal and character.

The Council seem adamant about wanting residents and visitors to walk or cycle into Harpenden - a noble but totally unrealistic aspiration. If anything there are even more cars in Harpenden and we need more not less car parking spaces. The existing waiting times of 30 minutes, one or two hours should be properly managed with traffic wardens/attendants who have been sadly non-existent in recent years.

Also, there is a proposal for another 550 new homes in Harpenden, with another 1000 cars likelythe pressure on parking spaces will be even greater....so more parking spaces not less please.

I strongly object.

This proposed change will damage local business viability and turn people even further towards on line shopping and the destruction of the local high street.

People would rather you raise a few extra pounds in council tax than destroy one of the few thriving villages.

Everyone needs and values a sense of place and community where they belong . Having a Village centre that more elderly , less mobile people , and families with children can easily just pop into with their cars and park in order to conduct their lives , wether socially to meet or partake in community activities or to shop locally rather than buy remotely online or at an out of town supermarket , where they can park for free , is vital to keep this Village and its sense of vibrancy alive.

Kill it at your peril.

These seemingly small changes have many unforeseen consequences .

Not everyone is aware of your proposed changes , then not many of those aware althought they feel negatively about it know or are ableto find the free time to register their concerns . As a consequence to take the number of responses you get from your so called consultation period as a true reflection can only ever be a massive under reflection and is not a truly a democratic process and reflection of the communities concerns. . Please bear this in mind when you make your decision. The process itself is limiting.

What is right for a large urban town like St Albans is not the same for a village. All you would do is extend the metro sense of area into this Village , shutting down small independent retailers and community clubs , activity centres and charities. Those most in need of these free parking spaces and the opportunities they serve , because they can't afford yet more financial demands , are the ones who will suffer and the ones most unlikely to be able to respond to your survey. It makes you think that the whole consultation model is simply you own tick a box to try and say it was all done with community consent. It can never be a real consultation unless you reach and hear the responses from all the invested people. This consultation can't possibly do this .I would hate to think it was almost a ' scam ' to enable the District Council to continue on with a policy that they have already predetermined it wants to impose, for its own financial benefit , rather than for the benefit and interests of the local community.

Keep our Village with a sense of community and treat it like a Village.

If you can't afford traffic wardens why not ask for local volunteer wardens . I know many who would do this in order to keep a living village alive , with a sense of itself, where local businesses and charities that work in the community can continue to thrive and serve the outlying population who need to drive in.

Your idea will not reduce car use or congestion as mostly those who can walk in already do , why would they not? There are other large needy communities of drivers - people who need to drive and park who you will be hammering with increased costs and technical burdens of dealing with paying. My elderly mother ,for instance , just can't cope with paying for parking remotely etc and now won't visit Radlet which introduced parking charges. She can't work the technology. You will be causing financial and emotional hardships to the most vulnerable. Not everyone who uses Harpenden is well off enough to also be paying for parking . Others just can't cope with the extra hassle. The loss of these customers and community users will close businesses and charity offerings and the use of the so called Village will wither and become even more self selected to only those with lots of money and technical skills.

Please rethink this proposal.

Dear councillors

The removal of limited free waiting in Harpenden town centre will irrevocably change the nature of the town. Many people in Harpenden have to drive to access the town centre. The fact of being able to stop for a short period has allowed the town centre to stay vibrant and bustling. There are many problems affecting the town centre the most important of which is the problem of astronomical rents for businesses. This has driven out many small businesses already. Limiting public access will be another major problem for these businesses, most of which have expressed serious concerns about the parking plans and the effect this will have on their viability.

There are many who actively practice religious observation at the multitude of churches in Harpenden. Access to these will be very restricted.

I was a GP in the town for many years. The ability to park freely for an hour enabled patients to access us and to pick up medication. Access to a Blue Badge is very limited and there are many who fall just below the threshold but are v mobility restricted.

Most importantly anything that changes the nature of our community spirited small town by restricting people's access will cause great harm to our community.

Please reconsider this very retrograde step and instead divert attention to making walking in town better. For example our pavements are in a terrible state. Station Rd is a real hazard and at night almost pitch dark. The LED lighting completely fails to light the footways.

Your relentless pursuit of parking charges in Harpenden is absolutely disgusting. You will have a huge effect on local business and we do not agree or consent to this.

Please reconsider the damage you will do to our town for your own personal gain. 95% of residents do not agree with this!

I'm just writing to express my dissatisfaction with the proposals to make the modifications to convert free limited waiting parking places in Harpenden - the retail environment is already very difficult for retailers there (- I know as an ex retailer on the High Street), with extortionate rents that are not justifiable given the existing footfall. This proposal will make this worse. Shops and restaurants (that are not part of chains), are already closing regularly due to this problem and this will only make it worse resulting in an empty high street going forward. Please reconsider.

In respect of the above I am against the proposals for parking in Harpenden.

The proposals will discourage people from visiting the town especially at a time when retailers need all the support they can get to have people spending in the local shops. Charging for parking will encourage more people to do all their shopping outside Harpenden.

I have been involved with business in Harpenden for over 20 years and previous issues with parking and surveys have clearly resulted in the takings of retailers being reduced. Removing free parking disincentivises people to use small, local shops especially independents. After all, if I was dropping off an elderly relative I may stop and do some shopping but if I have to pay to park I'll go home and come back and pick them up later. Equally, there are many Harpenden residents feeling cost of living increases for whom additional cost will be unwelcome and may drive them out of the town.

From an environmental standpoint I feel it is likely people will opt to travel outside Harpenden to shop where there is free parking e.g. London Colney resulting in more congestion and pollution.

I am once again emailing to express my strong objection to proposed parking charges in harpenden which I believe will destroy the local business and character of the town

I oppose the level of parking charges because of the certain detrimental effect that it will have on local businesses.

I understand that overall parking in Harpenden is going to be markedly reduced with the sale of the Waitrose car park, and the proposed building and associated disruption caused by the proposed work in the station car park. This will be a problem for local businesses.

I love Harpenden town centre - I walk there almost every day and I would be immensely saddened to find businesses closing because of reduced footfall due to a reluctance by customers to pay for parking. I regularly go for coffees, especially in the small independent shops like Silver Palate, Eight Ounce and Brad + Dills. I buy books in Harpenden Books, I pop to buy cards in Threads. I fear that when parking is a similar price to a coffee or a card, customers will drive back home without stopping off.

The price is too high. I understand money must be found somewhere but the current proposals are far too expensive and will adversely and rapidly impact our great mixture of shops.

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposal to remove the free waiting bays and replace with chargeable in Harpenden.

Parking is already expensive and with a family that require frequent trips to town, I rely on a mixture of free and paid.

Without free parking I will have to rethink how often I go to shops and my concern is I will no longer just pop out for a coffee and support local shops doing my purchases online.

Parking is already extremely expensive and I think this move is awful for the community

Limited Waiting Bays PPB/01

My husband and I feel it is extremely important to Harpenden residents and businesses that we are able to retain free parking in town. We have lived in Harpenden for 28 years and wholeheartedly appreciate this friendly option. Having to battle with parking charges creates a soulless, aggravating environment that is strangling other towns around us. We don't want that for Harpenden. Do be in touch if needed.

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing to object to the proposal to introduce parking charges in Harpenden.

It feels like a cynical grab for cash and i believe it will have a detrimental impact on the retailers, cafes and restaurants in the town centre who rely on linked trips associated with the current free

short stay parking.

If parking charges are to be introduced then i believe the first hour should be free to allow the all important short stay linked trips.

Please register this as an official objection.

Whilst I agree that parking should be limited in the on street parking bays in Harpenden and perhaps a small charge after a 30 minute period, the current rules would suffice if their were more regular traffic wardens patrolling.

I see that one of the objectives is to encourage other modes of transport but if would be impossible to do a weekly shop and get it home on a bus, particularly for families.

I believe that the proposed rate of parking charges would be harmful to local businesses, sadly we have already lost several independents in recent years due to the increase in online shopping and this would just exacerbate their difficulties.

There has still not been enough consideration to the impact this will have on the local economy and sense of community.

The free parking should be extended to 2 hours per day. This allows for several businesses to be visited in one trip.

Local transport services are not a replacement for car usage in this area. The counties attractiveness from smaller towns and cities with good green spaces does not result in a good economical public transport system. Allowing the population to use a car to continue to support local businesses and also provide a strong community feel is a positive for all. The proposals for parking are against this.

The council needs to find alternative revenue streams than the parking charges.

I am absolutely disgusted that the council is still considering introducing payment for parking in Harpenden High Street. I am a resident in Harpenden and regularly go into the High Street at least 4 times a week to shop in the local shops. If I continue to do this it will cost me between £1:25 and £5 each visit which is not sustainable therefore I will have to look at shopping elsewhere where there is free parking.

Introducing this charge is absolutely the best way to ruin the High Street and shut down all the independent businesses, who make up Harpendens unique High Street and entices people to shop and live here.

I absolutely 100% disagree with the change in parking rules and introduction of parking charges.

I back the **Teresa Heritage's** comment that the free parking should be 1 hour per session.

NOTE. I am not happy with any of these proposals but unfortunately it seems that the Council are foolishly determined to push this through.

I am a Harpenden resident and am firmly against the withdrawal of free parking in Harpenden town centre and surrounding areas.

The introduction of such a thing will be to the detriment of shop owners who have high rents and to those people who at this present time with extreme financial difficulty due to the cost of living as this will stop people shopping local and driving further afield to retail parks where parking is free, so would have longer car journeys and cause more pollution.

It will deter someone dropping off an older person at say church or the supermarket and staying somewhere in town for coffee. Instead they will drop off, drive away and come back. Again causing more pollution.

Please do not introduce this scheme for the sake of the environment and the sake of local businesses.

1. I write to object strongly to the current proposals to introduce both parking regulations and extra charges in Harpenden. It is asserted that the Council have listened to public comment but I, like tradesmen and residents alike submit that it is absolutely clear that they have not done so properly. It comes across as VERY ill thought-out and quite unnecessarily at the 'rate payers' expense.

2. Harpenden is a valley town and it is simply not possible for many - let alone all - residents to take home even a single monthly shop unless they have easy access by car. A former lady Mayor of the town made this clear very many years ago but here we go again.

3. Years ago we had the nonsensical suggestion that many roads - even including Station Road - be converted to include/improved cycle access. Thankfully at that time the local traders made their views clear on that and they were listened to but their views today are certainly NOT being properly considered. They should be.

4. Let us face it: Harpenden is DYING. Do the two Councils still not grasp this? The ever increasing necessity for ever better access by car is continuously being eroded - with (and can you really believe it?) several council officers STILL believe that cars are bad. Yet those with such views that I have spoken too have totally failed to grasp that during the pandemic when buses were discouraged because of infection risks and children had sometimes to be kept out of school and away from what buses still ran at reduced frequency but still (for adults) at up to £4 one way from Kinsbourne Green adding up to £8 to a local monthly shop. Taxis didn't run, trains didn't run - sometimes at all. In reality of course it was the private car that kept the country working and eating.

5. Anyone doubting that our town is dying only needs to try and to buy some Optrex eye spray! You might therefore go to Boots where the item was recently priced at £14.50 (or similar). Yet on the Internet you can today get it delivered to your home address for approx £4.50. Is it any wonder that High Streets are dying? The rateable value for shops - and the rents required need drastic downward revision. Where are the proposals for this? Westminster managed it some years ago why cannot we?

Every competent business manager knows that that the 'Cars are bad', argument is ridiculous and it is indeed ridiculed in industry. It is made worse when any manager realises that neither St Albans' nor Harpenden's councils have EVER (Yes, EVER) conducted a zero-based budget. The opportunity to adjust policies and staffing levels has been left to the old way of doing things - from which of course has come the 'every change needs the public to pay for it' policy of today. It has led to the present near demise of Harpenden - which I repeat is DYING.

6. What can be done? Last February I personally wrote to both council leaders to suggest that they might each visit Saffron Walden to see how a similarly attractive town in Essex managed things. You should note that I STILL (in late November 2024) await a reply from either of them of course. My wife and I had visited Saffron Walden on a Sunday in February last to have a family meal at one of the pubs. Afterwards we walked around the town. I was amazed that in February and on a Sunday the town was completely ALIVE. Almost all shops were open (only the Council building being conspicuously shut of course) - and not just the sort of shop that still try on and off to keep open in Harpenden. The town square parking was continuously changing, as were the several other car parks in the town. Clearly this was because the town recognises the importance of the private car. Yet St Albans' and Harpenden's councillors and managers do not it seems or perhaps cannot, grasp this - even whilst they continue to pretend to want to increase the economy of these once wonderful towns. Interestingly - for example - in Saffron Walden they even adjust parking provision on Sundays between disabled and non-disabled provision to suit demand. Why cannot we do that? Are our two councils unable to grasp the need for economic expansion? I would not have thought so. Returning to Harpenden that afternoon was close to devastating.

7. We are now approaching Christmas with all its opportunities for advancing its economy. Harpenden STILL has not planned for future Christmas Shopping. The tradesmen have ideas for all to hear yet they are STILL not listened to properly. People even now will again have to walk, carrying any shopping even as far as Rothamsted. Yet the old Morecambe Hall would (even now) make a wonderful multi story car park for the town. Why has no one grasped the importance of that? Indeed, where are the draft future plans for expanded parking in an underground car park under the Common? Does SADC ever really plan ahead? Yet, Harpenden STILL hasn't planned for enough ways to improve (and cheapen) all day parking for shop assistants so that they can regard working in Harpenden shops as a career step. Why is this?

8. Now we come to what is clear to all (though perhaps only to those outside the Council), namely the near 'lunatic' idea of making it even harder (and more expensive of course) for residents to shop by imposing MORE charges where none are needed. Why not control High Street Parking by the simple use of discs? That would avoid the ridiculous expense of meters and be easier to monitor too. It would even be cheaper for the present and yet-to-come residents. The same 30 minute window could apply and more people would park to shop. This worked well in the Channel Islands as did a different but similar system in Leatherhead. The Council in Harpenden needs to realise that when there was a strike and parking became a temporary free for all it ACTUALLY WORKED. It looked messy - Yes of course - but most people I have spoken to saw it as a most useful test that had worked. Why has this not been followed up?

9. Why is the High Street of Harpenden currently so disastrously planned? Have a look at Saffron Walden and FAST. Then please, please do ACT.

10. Finally, we are soon to have a major expansion of housing stock in the town yet (apparently) there are to be no extra shops, no more parking and even (apparently) no increase in bus service provision. If so that would be a shambles.

Can anyone please make sure that this will after all trigger VERY much more cheap parking in the town and by reducing rates encourage the local economy? Yet this was the very period that the

council continued to adopt the faulted policy that every change needed the public to pay extra for it.

11. Every competent general manager knows that argument is faulted and its equivalent is indeed ridiculed in industry. It is made worse when any such manager realises that neither St Albans' nor Harpenden councils have EVER (Yes, EVER) conducted a zero-based budget. The opportunity to adjust policies and staffing levels has been left to the old (faulted) way of doing things - from which the 'every change needs the public to pay for it' policy of today's frankly wretched system started. It has of course led to the present near demise of Harpenden - which I repeat is DYING. Other towns have solved this. Can someone please now act in St Albans and in Harpenden?

At present it is possible to park in the High Street, for example, and do shopping or collecting goods without charge – the new proposed changes will stop customers doing this and to add to the foreseeable problems one would be charged for the privilege. This will mean that customers would have to pay up or try and find parking in one of the car parks (which are already chargeable and usually full of course), then somehow struggle back to the car carrying whatever they have bought or collected. We are all charged up to our eyeballs for everything already and this would just add insult to injury. Older people such as myself and those with young children would find this impossible and go shopping elsewhere to avoid the hassle.

Do you really want to kill the High Street? It certainly appears that way. I dare say that the “pay stations” for this proposed parking will be by App – another problem for us oldies!

In addition, there certainly appears to be a vendetta against older people with the Council changing the rules about Senior Citizens Parking Permits, making them means tested making little sense as those unfortunates who cannot afford a car would apparently be the only ones who could apply for this! Now these proposed changes to parking where the shops are!

Restaurants and other outlets would suffer the same problems and customers would go elsewhere.

I give up. It used to be a pleasure to shop/eat in Harpenden but not any more if these changes come to fruition.

I beg you to reconsider. If people cannot afford to park they will stop shopping in Harpenden and go elsewhere, surely the Council would want to encourage more shops to open (to bring in more revenue) not make it more difficult to shop in those already here?

I would appreciate your acknowledgement of this email.

I strongly DISAGREE with the new parking charges proposed for the limited waiting time bays in Harpenden town centre.

The shops and businesses are already struggling with higher running costs and will now suffer further from a reduction in customers due to them being put off by the parking charges. I pop into the town centre around a few times a week to buy a few bits and will now think twice about this if the charges are brought in.

As a result, shops and businesses will close which will have a massively negative impact on the community.

If charges have to be brought in the surely it should be free for the first 30 minutes, £1.00 for 30 mins - 1 hour and £2.00 for 2 hours. £2.50 for an hour is disgusting.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposal.

The amendments you propose are insufficient.

Half an hour free per day is unlikely to be of use to the majority of people.

For example I booked a flu jab In November. I parked, walked to the pharmacy and they were running 15 minutes late, I would not have made it back to the car in time and would have received a

parking ticket through no fault of my own.

Many less mobile people who are not entitled to a Blue Badge will have no option but to pay as half an hour would be too short, not all residents of Harpenden are well off.

Along with a group of friends we regularly meet for lunch in the town, we won't be able to afford this with the proposed charge of £ 2.50-£5.00 and will take our custom elsewhere.

I remain convinced that one hour free and £2.50 per extra hour is possible, this will encourage people to linger in the town and not feel stressed if it is a quick visit.

If I have to come into the town, public transport is not an option, I will get a lift in and a lift back, more pollution and np parking fees.

This has still not been well enough communicated to residents. Only yesterday I was asking people in the super market what they thought about the proposed parking charges and no-one knew anything about them. The council has contact details for all residents, surely an email, text or even a letter included with the Council Tax bill could have been used as this change must have been under discussion for some months.

I remain unconvinced that this will not damage Harpenden town centre and if businesses close this will result in a loss of business rates.

I hope you will reconsider at give the one hour free a trial period of 6 months.

High streets are dying, don't let mine be the next.

Hello,

I protest against the proposed increase in parking charges, and reduction in time allowed for free parking - in Harpenden town centre.

PPB/01 Imposition of parking charges in Harpenden

It is abundantly clear that your constituents in Harpenden do not want these changes to the parking regulations in our town. This has already been made clear to you in a by-election and will no doubt be reinforced in upcoming local council elections. Are you deaf to these opinions expressed by business owners and the broader population, especially older residents, who will need to walk often some distance in order to avoid the uncertain waiting time in dentists' and doctors' surgeries, in the supermarkets or just to send or collect a package at the post office?

Whilst there has been heavy demand for parking in Harpenden for many years but, as a resident of more than 50 years, I know that it does still work. Do the councillors trying to impose these restrictions know? It would work even better if the council were to allocate enough (or indeed ANY) wardens to police those blatantly abusing time limits or yellow line restrictions, whilst also generating substantial funds that you clearly desperately need. Perhaps curbing 'vanity' projects in St Albans and allocating more to basic maintenance of the Harpenden environment would help keep council demands in check. As a regular visitor to Welwyn Garden City, I am struck by the pristine state of that town, the freedom of traffic movement and the availability of 1-hour free parking close to the town centre, in stark contrast to St Albans, a traffic 'black hole', and certainly not a place many would choose to shop. We don't want this to be imposed on Harpenden. What is the WGC Council doing right that can't be done by the St Albans Council? Competence has been questionable for quite some time, exemplified by the disastrous failure to put together a plausible and acceptable District Plan without legal challenge from adjacent Districts.

I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding your plans to introduce paid parking in certain areas in Harpenden, Redbourne and St Albans.

I am utterly surprised at the attitude of the Council by looking to profit from additional parking monies without considering the impact that these charges will have on the use of shopping outlets in the areas being considered. St Albans is already a "Ghost Town" and it is saddening to see the reduction in the size of the street markets in the High Street. Harpenden shops are also suffering in the number of shop outlets which have disappeared from the town and we are now left with coffee shops, pubs, charity shops and undertakers.

On a recent visit to Hitchin, I was gladdened to see large areas of parking available and a bustling and varied shopping centre which had a good mixed variety of shops and a welcoming environment.

It seems that the Council are determined to wreck what used to be a busy and welcoming environment and they are not only creating an environment which discourages people to shop, they are

destroying the viability of investment in new shopping experiences and outlets.

I oppose the introduction of charges for parking in existing areas which are at present free and hope that the Council will reconsider this decision.

You must be joking? Please tell this is some sort of late April fools. DO you really want to ripoff the residents of Harpenden and discourage an one from shopping in the town centre. Well keep going with the good work! Wellcome boarded up shop fronts.

I am against these parking restrictions

The small businesses in the Harpenden, St Albans areas are already suffering from rent increases. As well as the Labour parties taxes amongst other rising costs.

People have a decreased income for spending.

We will if these parking costs are introduced have another dying high street.

I urge you not to do this. The towns are little hubs and at the moment thriving. If this is introduced we will have another high street with boarded shops.

I sent in my objections to the original parking charges proposal in Harpenden and, having studied the the modifications, I fail to see how they really improve matters. The proposed charges will still lead to a move away from High Street shopping, 30 minutes free parking will not allow for doctor/dentist appointments or Post Office queues. Not everyone has access to a mobile phone for payment and walking to and from the shops carrying bags is not a viable option for many of us due to age, infirmity or distance. Times are hard enough for retailers and these proposals will only make matters worse all round. Please reconsider while there is still time.

I believe that the proposed changes to on street parking (both the timings & charges) will be hugely detriment all to the businesses on our high street.

With so many other financial pressures on both the shoppers & the shops this may well prove to be the final straw for many.

How will the 2 x 30 minute free stays per day be controlled?

Yet more unsightly street furniture in the way of payment machines/signage will be required.

I am very much AGAINST these proposals and firmly believe they should be rejected

Map reference PPB/01

The proposed changes will make no difference to the original arguments put forward. The less mobile, those WITHOUT blue badges, (which includes many elderly residents) who require the use of their cars to enable them to get into town both for its facilities and their wellbeing will find the added expense and hassle too much. Being able to buy a Senior Parking Permit at a reasonable figure (unless on pension credit) WILL force many of them to stay at home more often, which is detrimental to their health and wellbeing and will have consequences as a result. So much for social care.

For others who either cannot afford the cost, or on principle will not pay, will choose to shop where the parking is free - this is not what anyone wants for either them or the town. Do we want a town without independent small shops rather than national chains and empty ones? The loss of five spaces does not help either.

The introduction of one thirty minute slot has shown all you have thought about is fulfilling the need for picking up children from town schools. What about those who attend mid-week church services, Groups organised for the elderly, etc.

This is just a way of increasing the St Albans City and District Council's income. Roll on election time.

I would like for you to record my objection to the proposed charging for the parking bays as per PPB/01.

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> From personal experience I can assure you that this will lead to the decline of the last few independent businesses on our high street. Please can you confirm whether this is actually your intention?

>

> It will become more advantageous to use alternative out of town facilities where parking is free for 2 hrs . In addition the number of spaces provided in harpenden which is already limited is set to be further reduced by proposed development of the station car park and Waitrose.

This proposal, even in its revised form, will have an adverse effect on the businesses in Harpenden. I have discussed this topic with many friends and residents and we all agree that the frequency of our visits in to town will reduce, and we will instead increase our use of services like Amazon and Supermarket home delivery.

You are making the desire to just pop to the shops unpalatable. I object to your plans to change the parking control in Harpenden and want all plans of change withdrawn.

The latest proposals of SADC on parking charges in Harpenden clearly illustrate the well known maxim that “there is none so blind as those who cannot see”.

SADC boldly state that there is no evidence that these proposed charges will affect the businesses and vibrancy of the High Street; It appears that representatives of SADC ,in their rush to use Harpenden as a cash cow, never venture out to see the many small towns in England now boarded up and getting more and more run down because short sighted. Councils have failed to recognise they need to support not milk their town centres at a time when trade is threatened by online shopping , outside-town shopping parks and the drop in the economy ...which have put the survival of High Streets on the brink.

Compare Harpenden with nearby Berkhamsted where there is a large free car park close to the town centre and the town is prospering to a much greater extent than Harpenden .

I am astonished at the suggestion that SADC car parking has made losses of £1.5 million over 4 years.I would like to see these figures independently audited but would certainly comment that these losses have not come from Harpenden where current parking operations are very small.....and indeed the figures suggest to me that if SADC make losses on charging for parking ,they should give it up (apart from essential policing of double yellow lines)liberating SADCs budget from losses and liberating their residents from the tyranny of parking charges. Alternatively hand over parking responsibilities in Harpenden to Harpenden Town Council who have much greater knowledge of the needs of the Town than people sitting in St Albans

It is my observation that this whole process of reviewing parking in Harpenden has been conducted in the most unacceptable manner ...the Head of the Council, Paul de Kort, announced the result before the consultation had hardly started, equipment,I understand, has been ordered ahead of the consultation again underlining that the consultation was not genuine, and there has been no proper discussions with Harpenden Town Council who have made some sensible proposals ignored by SADC.

I would like to see the one 30 minute free period per day extended to a 60 minute free period to accommodate older residents, the disabled and mothers with children, all of whom will struggle to complete their shopping in town within 30 minutes.

We wholly object to proposals to change the car parking cost arrangements in Harpenden town centre. They are wholly unnecessary.

I simply do not believe your justification for restricting parking in Harpenden High Street. You claim that parking is giving you a deficit of £1.2 million a year. Parking in Harpenden is costing you virtually nothing. Indeed if you sent traffic wardens more than once in a blue moon you would be able to collect substantial fines from the many people who habitually park illegally under the existing regulations. Your proposals will cost substantial amounts in putting up the payment furniture and without extra costs of traffic wardens to enforce the new rules you will be unlikely to recoup that money. Meanwhile you will be harming the viability of shops operating in the street. There are many empty shop spaces already and it will make things worse if your plans proceed.

In my opinion 30 minutes free parking is not long enough for most people to be able to get from the parking location to a shop, make a purchase and return. One hour would be an acceptable length of time. Parking charges in half hour intervals after this time is reasonable, but the scale of the charges is too high and discriminates against those not able to use public transport or walk. These proposals will not encourage use of our high streets and will force people to use out of town retail parks with free parking.

I back the **Teresa Heritage's** comment that the free parking should be 1 hour per session.

NOTE. I am not happy with any of these proposals but unfortunately it seems that the Council are foolishly determined to push this through.

Dear Parking Consultations

I make my representation as both a business owner in Harpenden and as a resident of (REDACTED), Harpenden.

While I appreciate the need to fill a deficit in the car parking services budget, many businesses would look at costs before starting down the path of increasing costs, something I fear St Albans Council never does. A reasonable compromise would have been to half the time a car could be parked in these bays from two hours to one hour, if this approach had been adopted I feel there would have been less uproar from the residents of Harpenden who greatly support their high street and its many independent shops.

The present proposals in their amended format will still have a detrimental effect on the high streets café's and independent shops and I would urge the Council to look at a more reasonable compromise.

With regards to the proposal to
Postpone the decision on York Road (St Albans) Limited Waiting Bays until the wider review of parking in Zone P which will be on the 25/26 workplan.

I do not believe this should be postponed but it should be entirely scrapped as a proposal as there is no reason whatsoever to introduce charges. There are no parking issues, residents are against this and use of the park should be encouraged and not just reserved for the wealthy residents who live within walking distance.

Hi this parking change is a terrible idea, the existing system works well.

This is an unfair regressive tax on the local community, particularly those on low incomes who will no longer be able to travel into town free for basic amenities.

Seems like a completely shameless money grab, when you could extend the parking provision at the station and make more money from that and actually benefit the community, instead of just mindlessly taxing existing free provisions.

I object to the proposals on the grounds that it will drive people away from shopping and visiting Harpenden. I am involved in running a club for the retired at St Nicholas Church Hall and many of the members have said they will not come in the future if they have to pay for parking. It makes the parking charge a tax on retired persons receiving physical and mental exercise.

I object to the proposed changes to parking bays in Harpenden for the following reasons:

1. The existing parking provision is restrictive enough as it is
2. The charges proposed are greatly over-inflated making me believe it is purely a money making scheme or that it is intended to deter people from coming into the town centre at all! The latter being more likely.
3. In short, this scheme will only serve to hasten the deterioration of our high street.
4. It would be better to a) to reinstate short stays in car parks and bays of 30 minutes and to keep the prices reasonable to encourage people to come into town rather than always to visit out of town shopping centres.

Whilst I don't agree with the proposed changes in any way ..

I would suggest that repainting *and marking out car spaces and enforcement of reasonable parking therein* would work some way towards re establishing the social contract in car use.

(.. just please don't tell me that I've no idea of the paperwork that would be involved to action this when it appears the proposed changes are going through anyway ...).

To whom it may concern

I have emailed you before with regards to the new parking restrictions in Harpenden.

The proposal stated that disabled blue badge holders can only park for 3 hours and no return within 2 hours. I can see the adjustments they are proposing does not address this issue so I can only assume they are continuing to enforce this and will be discriminating against working disabled people. I cannot be the only working disabled person in Harpenden.

If I cannot park close to my work for a full day working hours, then I will not be able to go to work anymore.

Can you please let me know what they intended to suggest the working disabled people of Harpenden do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

I am emailing to comment on the limited waiting bays proposition.

Personally, I think it's outrageous. The charges proposed are the highest in hertfordshire and whilst considering Harpenden is a small town this seems absolutely ridiculous.

Taking into consideration that a lot of residents use the free parking for doctors appointments, I can't see how this is not considered discrimination against the elderly.

On another note, this will seriously impact local businesses. You will undeniably see shops closing down because of the decrease in footfall- this can not seriously be what you want. I understand that the council needs money, but with the closure of shops from this parking restriction, money will decrease.

I have personally worked in one of the Harpenden shops and this action saddens me greatly- seeing family businesses and incredible shop owners worry about how long they will be able to stay open with decreased footfall is truly heartbreaking. I really think it's time to think about, if money is really more important than people.

On top of all of this, I know you have seen all the petitions and the amazing work the people of Harpenden have done to try and stop this yet you have continuously ignored it. The trust we have for the council will seriously plummet if this is implemented.

So please think about it; what's the benefit?

I absolutely object to this amended proposal and the original proposal.

It is important to allow local residents access to free parking, as it currently stands today.

This is clearly a money making scheme, due to inefficient services, waste and uncontrolled spending - I do not support your collective inefficiencies being subsidised by these proposals.

Free parking is essential to allow the local economy to thrive and be able to pop to the shops as and when, without spending money on parking.

I see that the link on your website to feedback on this consultation doesn't actually work, and is perhaps a sneaky attempt to limit feedback on these proposals.

I oppose the original proposal and these new amendments.

There are many people who have expressed concern about the impact to the local community, both with those trying to park and the businesses that may be affected by lower footfall. However I would like to comment on the proposal to turn 5 spaces into resident only at Leyton Green. Presumably this is because insufficient spaces were created/allocated by the developer in their plans for the number of flats. That should not be the burden of Harpenden and not corrected by depriving others of spaces. Lessons should be learned by the Council consenting the planning application.

I am writing to register my objection to the proposed changes to the parking situation in Harpenden town centre, specifically the proposition of 30 min max free parking.

As a parent with a young child, who does not live within easy walking distance of the town centre, 30 minutes of free parking is just not enough. No parent with a toddler can complete 1 quick errand (a small amount of food shopping, queueing at the post office, donating to charity shops etc) comfortably within a 30 min time slot, when you take into consideration unloading a walking toddler or a pram from the car; dressing the child appropriately for cold/ wet weather once out of their carseat, making an necessary nappy change/ potty training toilet stops; any other little things which occur while out with babies and toddlers, undressing them again to get back in the car. It's just unreasonable to expect us to pay for time we want to complete said small errand. This is a family town and families will stop using the the high street for this reason. Many other families will have other similar reasons why they just can't feasibly fit their errands into 30 minutes of free parking and the threat of potential fines for overstaying just makes the high street seem unpleasant. Not to mention the having to pay to park to use the playground, even a 20 minute playground visit can't be completed within 30 mins of free parking.

Please remove the proposed 30 minutes free parking AND REPLACE with 1 hour free parking, which will be dramatically more useful to a number of people and will keep people using the high street, and keep the businesses of Harpenden running.

I wholly object to this proposal (St Albans City and District Council (Control of Parking) (Amendments No**) Order 202* - Map reference: PPB/01).

You claim that finding parking spaces can be stressful, but I assure you that the only stress Harpenden residents feel regarding parking comes from this very proposal. There is ample parking, everyone understands the restrictions, and spaces can generally be found quickly. I have yet to see any evidence from the council that suggests otherwise.

Your response to 7.2.2 is insufficient—where is the supporting evidence? Has anyone observed Harpenden town centre and seen elderly residents doing their weekly shopping at Sainsbury's, M&S, or Waitrose? While online shopping is an option, it's not just about buying groceries; it's about the experience, social interaction, and meeting friends. This applies not just to the elderly but to all Harpenden residents. Where in your considerations have these circumstances been addressed?

The proposed amendment to reduce the impact on parents and carers with young children misses the point entirely. It fails to consider school pick-ups, which start at 3 p.m. and run until 6 p.m. for after-school clubs and nursery settings. It also neglects to account for children attending nursery on half-day schedules.

The town centre hosts numerous activities for parents with babies and the elderly, many of whom drive into town to participate. These activities greatly enrich Harpenden's unique community. This proposal, however, prioritizes remedying the council's financial mismanagement at the expense of residents, with no regard for the cultural impact on the community or the financial strain it imposes on pensioners already struggling during the cost-of-living crisis.

The suggestion that funds from these charges will be used for increased enforcement measures, including ANPR, is deeply flawed. It appears the council is modeling itself after Greater London, where parking enforcement is necessary due to limited space and high car volumes. Harpenden, however, is not London. We do not need advanced enforcement measures to manage parking. Furthermore, if the proposal's aim is to encourage walking and cycling, fewer cars would theoretically reduce the need for enforcement and diminish revenue—leaving the council with significant expenses for implementing these measures and little return on investment. Has any economic analysis been conducted, or is this based on assumptions from other areas? Forecasting must be tailored and grounded in realistic assumptions, not simply copied from case studies elsewhere.

Additionally, the villages surrounding Harpenden rely on regular trips to the town. Cycling for these residents is impractical, as it would require navigating country roads with vehicles traveling at 60 mph, and public transport timetables are unlikely to improve. This proposal effectively imposes a "visitor's tax" on residents of surrounding villages. Once again, Harpenden is not London; it is a country town, not a city. Local residents should not be subject to additional costs, especially when these do not benefit the community but instead cover the council's financial shortfalls.

The fact that we are even considering this change, which disrupts a system that works well and has faced no prior objections, highlights poor decision-making and management by the council. The £1.5m loss cited by the council could likely be mitigated by refraining from unnecessary schemes like this one. The council should focus on consulting residents before making decisions that fail to serve the community effectively.

In conclusion, I firmly object to this proposal, which is inadequate and exploitative of the council's residents. The approach is unproductive, poorly justified, and disregards the unique needs of Harpenden and its surrounding areas.

I object strongly to the modified proposal, which further reduces free time from 40 to 30 minutes per day.

Limiting the ability for local residents, who live too far away or are too infirm to walk or cycle, to pop into town to do some shopping or enjoy food and drink and other services will damage the town community and will hurt and destroy businesses.

Proposed conversion of some Leyton Green bays to resident only bays will increase the negative impact.

Towns need people in them and the reality is some of those people need to use cars.

Please do not reduce free parking.

You are a group of Philistines whose single-minded aim is to raise income from the more affluent residents of Harpenden with a complete disregard for the repercussions this will cause to life within the town centre. I, together with many others have highlighted numerous reasons why this is a terrible idea and I have no wish to reiterate what has been said and written already since you have made it crystal clear that, although you say you are listening, you do not have the slightest intention to act on any of the views and alternative suggestions the residents' and local business owners have put forward.

Why have you not had any sensible discussions with the Harpenden Town Council who far more closely represent the people of Harpenden?

Why is it not possible to provide the appropriate click-on link relating to the map on your website as you clearly state I should?
What little tunes do you hum to yourself whilst you put your fingers in your ears?
You have my 100% disagreement with your current proposals.
I wish to object to the amended parking charges for harpenden. I still think you should just leave the hour free of charge
I do not agree to the these changes at all
These are terrible for pensioners, shoppers and businesses alike. At the age of 79 will I have to cycle down to get my shopping? I fell off my bike this summer, bruising badly and had decided to give up on the bike! However these ridiculous charges - together with the withdrawal of pensioners parking permits - will probably mean that many of my peers will be wobbling around - a danger to themselves and others!
The Lib Dem's will rue these charges when shops close, business rates suffer and when elections are held!!!
Given the current lack of enforcement of the rules, how are the council planning to enforce the new restrictions . The odd visit of parking wardens on set days will not be enough - will there be wardens in Harpenden ever day and how will their effectiveness be monitored?
As a long standing resident of Harpenden I visit the high street regularly for shopping and social visits.
Harpenden high st has many small independent shops that need all the footfall they can get. The removal of the free parking discourages visits to the high street and as we have seen in other neighbouring towns such as Dunstable the removal of free parking can have a very long term negative impact on the economic health on high street trade.
Please reconsider the current proposed strategy, paying £5 for 2 hours will drive customers away and then retailers away and they will never come back. The price to pay here is not worth it.
I absolutely reject the introduction of parking fees and restrictions in Harpenden. I cannot afford them, I use the town and local businesses daily and this will impact my behaviour. I will be opting to shop online!!!!
Your consultation process is appalling, no feedback, 95% of the community object! Your black hole in your finances is due to your inefficiencies, effectiveness and I urge you to do some organisational introspection,
I am writing to register my objection to the proposed changes to the parking situation in Harpenden town centre, specifically the proposition of 30 min max free parking.
As a parent with a young child, who does not live within easy walking distance of the town centre, 30 minutes of free parking is just not enough. No parent with a toddler can complete 1 quick errand (a small amount of food shopping, queueing at the post office, donating to charity shops etc) comfortably within a 30 min time slot, when you take into consideration unloading a walking toddler or a pram from the car; dressing the child appropriately for cold/ wet weather once out of their carseat, making an necessary nappy change/ potty training toilet stops; any other little things which occur while out with babies and toddlers, undressing them again to get back in the car. It's just unreasonable to expect us to pay for time we want to complete said small errand. This is a family town and families will stop using the the high street for this reason. Many other families will have other similar reasons why they just can't feasibly fit their errands into 30 minutes of free parking and the threat of potential fines for overstaying just makes the high street seem unpleasant. Not to mention the having to pay to park to use the playground, even a 20 minute playground visit can't be completed within 30 mins of free parking.
Please remove the proposed 30 minutes free parking AND REPLACE with 1 hour free parking, which will be dramatically more useful to a number of people and will keep people using the high street, and keep the businesses of Harpenden running.
I object in the strongest possible way to the limited waiting bays proposal in Harpenden. It will kill our high street, disproportionality impacts older residents and those with young children and is discriminatory. The council really needs to get a grip on its residents' needs!!
Sent from my iPhone
I wish to register my objection in this consultation period.
I don't think any charged parking should be imposed, not just amendments, and certainly not at the extreme prices being proposed.
This will damage small business.
This will meaningfully affect those of us unable to buy houses in the centre of town at extreme price premiums, detaching people from the community of Harpenden more.

What is the revenue going to be used for? Harpenden & St. Albans already receive huge council tax revenues...just offering less and less for the same money.

I would like to object to the proposed limited waiting bays, and associated parking charges in Harpenden town centre - map reference PPB/01.

The arguments put forth for introducing these charges are superficial and inconsistent.

Reasons provided include to "encourage active travel" but presumably the expectation is that most parking spaces will still be occupied by paying residents, in which case there will have been no reduction in car journeys taken. Indeed allowing 20 minutes of free parking may encourage people to travel by car more, because anyone wanting to shop but not pay the hefty £2.50 per hour charge will be forced to perform shorter shops, and will therefore need to visit town to shop more regularly.

The proposal reasons also include the statement that "Providing free parking in city and town centres is no longer financially feasible." but no justification is provided to back up this decision, such as other revenue generation or cost saving options that were considered and discarded. It's therefore impossible to argue with this statement which is just put out there like it's a statement of indisputable fact, which it clearly isn't.

Having lived in Harpenden for more than two decades, I can say the current parking regime is working perfectly well, and should be left alone. Forcing paid parking for any non-trivial stay to Harpenden town centre will detract from the town centre, and the town as a whole, to the detriment of all who live in here.

I think that there should remain a substantial number of parking spots in central Harpenden that are free for one hour or two hours as they are today. Harpenden residents are generally time poor and money rich. For lots of people, the faff or having to sort out a parking fee to pay £1.25 would be a deterrent for many people making non-essential nice-to-have journeys. If you could introduce a passive parking system with number plate recognition and automatic direct debit charging, that might work. But I think the best solution is to increase the council tax to make up the shortfall. These charges could end up killing the goose that lays the golden egg and everyone loses.

I'm emailing here because the website is impossible to navigate.

I strongly object to the proposals to enforce payment for parking in many of Harpenden's parking bays.

This plan is not sustainable for many reasons

- the proposed charges are astronomical, the highest in Hertfordshire
- the proposed cost for parking far exceeds other local towns, or indeed comparable towns
- 30mins free parking is insufficient time for many people, especially elderly or those with young children (both groups that need to use a car more than others), to get any shopping/business done
- footfall in the high street will reduce dramatically, impacting businesses and shops
- Business rates have already increased hugely, and these proposals will take away customers, reducing profitability and so making them leave Harpenden
- The High Street will die like so many other high streets are
- No impact assessment/feasibility study has been undertaken
- Neighbouring streets will be negatively impacted by increased parking in those streets, to the detriment of householders
- parking permits for householders will be needed to dissuade others from parking in resident bays. This will further impact householders.
- the majority of residents, including those from nearby villages and Harpenden council itself oppose the plans, yet it is being forced through at speed without asking Harpenden Council to help devise a sustainable plan that meets the needs of residents, shops, businesses and SADC.

Many thanks for your time

As a long term resident of Harpenden, I object to the proposals to charge for parking in the town centre. Harpenden's high street is relatively vibrant, particularly in comparison to similar sized towns elsewhere. I believe that vibrancy will be severely impacted by charging for parking. It will dissuade both residents and visitors from shopping in the town.

Our business based in Central Harpenden brings together c60 different businesses per week to co-work, connect and collaborate .In 8 years we have seen over 400 local businesses through our doors. We achieve this by physically bringing people together through coworking, regular business and social events & well-being events. All fostering collaboration and connection and having a positive impact on mental health.

Our community is built of members and the wider community. People living in Harpenden, St Albans, Redbourn, Kimpton, Slid End, Caddington, Markyate, Dunstable, Letchworth and Welwyn all chose to use our facilities and attend our events on a regular basis. One of our unique propositions is that we can offer our services at an affordable and accessible rate for small businesses and individuals.

Our grave concern with the parking proposal is that the cost of using our facilities and services then dramatically increases, what is currently an affordable and accessible needed service. For example for a small business using a fixed desk, pays £15 per day + VAT. Under the proposed charges, for that person to park on one of the surrounding roads would double the cost to share this space + having to move their car every 2 hours and hope to find a spot. Under such circumstances businesses will no longer chose to work from The Harpenden Collective, and instead would return to isolated working from home or to other local towns.

We have spent 8 years encouraging local businesses and individuals to come out of their homes and engage with other local businesses and onto the high street. We are big supporters of a vibrant high street. Parking charges and restrictions will undo all the work that has been achieved to date, and the work of all the local independents who sit on the high street. and will only be detrimental to the Harpenden business community and wider ha

There needs to be an alternative solution for businesses like The Harpenden Collective, that operate from central Harpenden. We are at the heart of Harpenden and we want to stay that way. It is critical to our business and the service we offer.

There needs to be a solution that continues to encourage people and businesses that service the community, such as The Harpenden Collective.

The parking proposals will be the end of accessibility on the high street and small business collaboration.

Should the proposal go forward there must be ample provision of free parking for The Harpenden Collective, designated free bays in existing car parks i.e Sports Centre, station car park, Bowers Way car park, Rothampstead, empty car park behind Park Hall.

May I make this clear, we are not asking for parking for THC staff, but suitable arrangements for the businesses that chose to run their businesses from The Harpenden Collective , due to the services and facilities we provide.

As a business we have survived the government imposed costs 1) covid and 2) increased cost of living and now we are being faced with the proposed parking restrictions and associated costs. Another cost we just cannot absorb at the same time as delivering this proven essential service.

It is with sadness that I reiterate my original objections to plans to charge for on street parking in Harpenden on the grounds that it will destroy the town centre as people will cease to shop on Harpenden High Street. They will go to out of town shopping centres and cafes. This will in turn reduce the council's income from business rates. The cost of installing equipment and paying traffic wardens will be more than parking fees raised.

On the Access pass for older people, this should be fixed by age eg 75 or 80 and not a random year 1954, so that people become eligible as they become less able to cope with technology due to failing eyesight etc.

I am writing to express my objection to the limited waiting bay proposals in Harpenden; particularly the limitation to only 1 x30min free parking slot between 9am-6pm. My husband and I share one car and we won't always know if either of us has nipped into town in the car making breach of the x1 free session an inadvertent mistake which could be costly in this limited proposal. Two free sessions would be our preference.

The costs seem very high with £2.50/hour being much higher than other local areas eg Berkhamsted. I think this will put people off paying and encourage people to take a chance on not being caught. A lower charge would likely net more revenue should the council deem charging to be necessary.

In all this, perhaps my greatest concern is about the impact on local business. Harpenden has a thriving high street for which I am very grateful; adding vibrancy to the town and making it a great place to live. It would be tragic for these charges to put people off visiting the high street leading to local closures. The impact on council revenue would be significantly negatively impacted and an own goal of the parking charges.

As a former Chair of Governors at St Nicholas Primary School, the impact on parents dropping off and picking up is also limiting. Whilst the charges are due to start at 9am parents regularly use

local shops after drop off and it would be foolish to curtail this. Pick up times can also be unpredictable if the children are running late or there is a teacher to chat to in the playground. How unnecessarily stressful to add a rush back to cars to avoid fines. A sense of community spirit will be damaged by people having less time to linger and chat.

Please reconsider and leave parking in the town alone. Free = great. Note Dame Cathedral I read today has decided to remain free for the benefit of many. We should remain so.

Good evening

The proposed parking changes have only recently been brought to my attention and I would like to raise my concerns and objections. I have spent hours trying to navigate through your website and found it extremely difficult to operate as such I am sure the response rate will be unfairly low.

The cost of parking will lead to an already congested area becoming even more so as drivers will simply circle around Harpenden rather than park up and pay.

It is unfair that parents of nursery school children have to pay to drop their children off and pick them up again, that the sick have to pay to park when visiting their Doctors surgery and no doubt then again when picking up prescriptions. The church's in Harpenden are very much the hub of our community, to be forced to pay to worship or volunteering is simply wrong. What about our elderly, lonely, perhaps recently bereaved residents, who get so much joy from visiting church, making new friends and finding purpose. Many of our elderly residents are on limited incomes, the parking charges would reduce their ability to be part of the community. The charges are the highest charges in Hertfordshire, which makes me feel that Harpenden is just being used as a cash cow for St Albans, again unfair.

It is such a struggle to find a parking spot as it is in Harpenden, so to suggest removing five bays for "residents parking" is again simply wrong. Surely the onus of responsibility for parking should be with the developers and factored into the plans from day one.

I am totally opposed to the proposals and really hope that the council will reconsider the implementation of such a divisive and unfair scheme.

I wish to formally confirm my objections to the proposals for parking charges being implemented in Harpenden town centre.

This will significantly impact local businesses and the town. And will deter visitors.

To confirm - I oppose the proposals.

I strongly object to the proposed changes to parking restrictions in Harpenden (map ref: PPB/01). I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this policy would have on both local residents and business owners.

Many local residents, especially those who live on the outskirts of Harpenden or in the surrounding countryside, rely on this free parking to shop, dine, and engage with local services. Similarly, the existing parking system is crucial for supporting local businesses, many of whom are already struggling in the current economic climate. This proposed change would create additional financial and logistical challenges for residents and businesses and result in more custom being diverted to online businesses.

Moreover, the proposed changes will exacerbate congestion on surrounding streets as drivers search for alternative free parking.

I urge the council to reconsider this proposal and preserve the current parking arrangements of at least 1 - 2 hours free parking.

I would like to register my objection to SADC's planned changes to parking in Harpenden town centre.

After an initial announcement from SADC a few months ago, there has been 2 separate petitions opposing any change, and a Harpenden town council meeting where every person involved was against any change to the current free parking in and around Harpenden town centre.

No one was in favour of the proposals.

Despite there being no support whatsoever locally, the district council has decided to ignore strong local feeling and push ahead anyway, with a few slight alterations to the original proposal to try and appease local residents.

I would therefore like to voice my objection to the latest amendments the council have proposed, and would like to see the parking remain free, and for the same amount of time as is currently allowed in various bays around town.

I also object to the proposed 'residents only' bays that have been suggested, as this will take bays away from other local residents, many who are elderly and rely on being able to drive to the shops.

The council maintains that they are running the parking department at a loss, but very rarely do you ever see any form of enforcement.

Perhaps I could suggest that if the council needs to find funds to run the department, that they should look into enforcing the current bays around Harpenden , and stop using Harpenden residents as a cash cow by charging them to visit their local town centre.

Democracy only works if those who are elected to run listen to those who vote them in.

The people who voted you in do not want this.

It couldn't be any clearer.

I am a resident of Harpenden and I wish to strongly object to the proposed introduction of parking charges in the Harpenden town centre and the free parking being limited to 30mins.

>

> The shops in Harpenden are already struggling to stay in business with high costs and the introduction of parking charges will make it increasingly difficult for them to continue trading. These parking charges will deter people from stopping to use these businesses as they pass through our town giving our high street vital business. Residents in the outer fringes and villages will be penalised the most.

>

> 95% of people asked in your initial consultation were strongly against the introduction of parking charges yet it seems that the council is still trying to push it through.

> The residents of this town should not be forced to pay even more stealth taxes on top of their council tax.

>

As a local resident of Harpenden I wish to strongly object to the proposed introduction of parking charges in the Harpenden town centre also the limited time of 30 minutes daily parking free of charge.

With the high council taxes us residents already pay, the charge for the green bin collection etc, this parking proposal feels like a way for the council to completely fleece the local residents for as much money as possible. And the proposed parking charges are ridiculously high - highest in Hertfordshire, this is absurd!

The shops in the Harpenden are already struggling to stay in business with high rates and rents. The introduction of the parking charges will make it increasingly difficult for them to continue trading. There are many other towns like Harpenden around the country with a flourishing high street with chains and independent retailers alike. YOU as councillors need to try harder to enable our high street to stay alive.

95% of people asked in your initial consultation were strongly AGAINST the introduction of parking charges, and still you decide to push through with it.

To balance the council's budget, there may need to be cost cuttings/ salary cuttings at your end - within the council, not squeezing the residents for every penny you can possibly obtain to fund the spiralling costs at your end.

It looks like very poor business management from your side!

I wish to voice my very strong objections to the imposition of charges to park on the streets on Harpenden, ref

PPB/01

We object most strongly to the proposed SADC carparking charges for Harpenden High Street for the following reasons

[1] Disproportionate Impact: the carparking charge disproportionately penalises Harpenden lower income groups & the disabled who have to find parking on a daily/regular basis for schooling, doctors appointments etc often with limited time available to seek & utilise an appropriate space forcing a breach in the parking conditions.

[2] Public Transport Reductions: many residents, including Harpenden lower income groups, have no choice other than to drive to shop or attend appointments etc as the bus operators have significantly reduced services in & around Harpenden due to SADC cuts in funding. Note: "Harpenden has public transport services, but these do not offer a good alternative for many of the car journeys in Harpenden" Source: University of Hertfordshire Travel in Harpenden Report by Smart Mobility Unit Sept 2023.

[3] Business Cost Impact: small businesses are already suffering the consequences of SADC business rate increases in the past, which will rise again in April 2025 by higher than inflation as encouraged by the Labour Government. The proposed carparking charges will increase the negative trading effect for small business owners along the Harpenden High Street.

[4] New Development Impact: there are multiple new residential sites in the Local Plan involving 100s of properties which will depend upon car transport into & out of the town, thereby increasing the volume of vehicles by 1000s, particularly in peak periods & further exacerbate the traffic congestion problem that already exists. Note: "The existence of few parking spaces is likely from experience elsewhere to give rise to extra congestion & pollution as drivers hover or circulate in the hope of securing a space once vacated". Source: University of Hertfordshire Travel in Harpenden Report by Smart Mobility Unit Sept 2023.

[5] SADC Carparking Service Management: According to Councillor Helen Campbell SADC Lead for Car Parking "Our car parking services have made accumulated losses of around £1.5 million over the past four years and that cannot continue at a time when local authority budgets are under so much pressure". We suggest a professional review is undertaken, possibly by the University of Hertfordshire Smart Mobility Unit to establish how greater operating efficiencies be introduced to SADC Carparking Service Operations rather than simply deploy metering & penalise residents & local businesses.

I am writing as a resident of 34 years of Harpenden to express my concerns at the proposal of the new parking terms in Harpenden town centre reference PPB/01.

It is not only disheartening to hear that the council are mustering up yet another money making scheme to eek every last penny out residents who already are paying above average council tax. But professionally, as a director in a corporate European retailer, I am shocked that the council are thinking of implementing this to turn even more shoppers away from our local high street and pushing them further into out of town shopping centres.

After speaking to many small business owners in Harpenden, they are paying ludicrous amounts in business rates, taxes, let alone rents, and now to have this hurdle which is ultimately going to cause less footfall in our high street- well, it's easy to see what the future will hold.

Nobody has taken up the premises the wine shop has left vacant, and unfortunately, this will be a common trend if these parking tariffs are implemented.

Personally, as a busy working mother of two children under the age of 4, I struggle to park in Harpenden, and this will make it even more inconvenient as the proposed price tariffs are too expensive. Again, it will deter me as a shopper and resident from visiting my local high street.

We have such a high proportion of our community either elderly or with young children, so you have to understand, it is not often practical or even an option to walk.

The Waitrose car park and the leisure centre Car park are already often full to the brim. These new proposals just make no sense to businesses, individuals, or indeed, the future of our wonderful town.

I look forward to your response and thoughts on how this is in anyone's interest a good idea.

Hello

Please register my opposition to the proposed changes to the parking charges in Harpenden. It will put so many people off from visiting shops, coffee shops and restaurants and all the other local businesses who struggle to survive as it is.

There should be more widely available free parking, not less.

I am opposed to parking charges as less people will come into town to the detriment of shop keepers.

These proposals will be hugely detrimental to local businesses... shops, cafes, etc.

Many people will choose to shop online rather than pay to park. Currently people go into Harpenden as it is a pleasurable experience... And this means one is more likely to go into a cafe for a

coffee/ pop into other shops spontaneously... thereby assisting local business . However, many people will stop doing this if parking is charged for.

I would rather do shopping in Harpenden centre than shop online, but if paid for parking is introduced I and many others will stop doing this.

The charges will also have a disproportionate and unfair effect on the elderly/ disabled, who may not easily be able to walk into Harpenden, or walk from place to place within Harpenden.

I believe introducing pay-to-park in central Harpenden will have a negative effect on the community.

High Street businesses will suffer as shoppers will head to out of town retail centres where parking is free.

Personally, it will deter me from heading into Harpenden in favour of internet shopping.

It would only have a detrimental effect and should not be introduced.

I strongly oppose the new parking restrictions in Harpenden. I think the council are trying to kill off the high street. Obvious don't appreciate that all the small businesses will disappear.

The parking restrictions will cause problems with businesses causing people to shop outside.

Objection - you will drive shoppers elsewhere.

At a time when high streets and individuals alike are struggling to make ends meet this is just another council cash grab dressed up in a green garb

This is a complete fiasco and will deter the community from using the facilities and shops in Harpenden. It will have a long term impact across the board.

I am having to email as the weblink hasn't worked since trying a few days ago. You make it impossible for people to view their comments by having such awful infrastructure. Pointless anyway as it's a done deal with signage already changing. It's also good to know that the person in charge of this decision doesn't even live in the county, never mind the town.

The changes to the parking rules will be a disaster to the community. We don't all have never ending supplies of money just because we live here. I would love to support local but it's unlikely I'll be doing it every week now I'm going to have to pay for the privilege.

This will be the end of another vibrant high street, well done.

As the owner of a small business in Harpenden I am very disappointed that charges are still being considered and fees are so high for such short times. It will be the death of the high street. Whilst I understand there may be a need to discourage long term commuter parking in inappropriate places proposed measures will just discourage locals from going about their normal business in our town. I rely on on street parking for clients visiting me as my limited parking is utilised by staff and even this is insufficient so my staff have to use other spaces. If the charges come in to play as proposed I would never be able to get them to work in my office as the parking charge wouldn't make it worth their while. This is a serious business issue for me and with increased NIC in the budget small employers like myself are struggling enough, we can't afford to subsidise this

The proposed charges are excessive please reconsider

I write to complain about the proposed changes to parking in Harpenden.

As a resident, I truly believe this will have a detrimental impact on Harpenden town centre and life in Harpenden in general.

Parking charges at the extortionate proposed levels will deter people from "popping into town" to pick something up quickly. It will also make it difficult to have any appointment which goes on longer than about 20 mins. This will affect many local businesses, especially hairdressers, opticians, dentists etc.

Living in Harpenden we pay high rates of council tax and are happy to do this to live in an amazing place with local shops and businesses. Not everyone has the ability (or time) to walk into town and a quick shop is often necessary.

We do not wish to visit shops at out of town retail parks.

Our independent retailers and businesses are what makes our town special, and these will undoubtedly be affected by these proposed parking restrictions.

Should businesses have to close this could force the high street and surrounding roads to become empty and boarded up with no charm whatsoever.

I attend an exercise class in Lourdes Hall and would have to pay for a 1.5 hour parking slot to be able to attend the class. This is ridiculous.

Please reconsider this.

Re proposed parking changes PPB/01

I am writing to object to the proposed parking changes in Harpenden.

I live a 30minute walk from town and currently if need to be in town walk to & from it when possible but due to a round trip of an hour there are times when I need to drive.

The proposed parking changes mean that I am less likely to drive & park in Harpenden for shopping but would maybe pop to Gypsy Lane instead.

I attend a fitness class one morning a week run by a local Mum in the town hall. Paying to park will be a quarter of the cost of my class - I might have to reconsider attending which would impact her business & my fitness.

Please don't make these changes,

I strongly feel that any changes to the parking system in Harpenden will have a huge detrimental impact on the local businesses.

Surely this would then have an impact on you, if businesses will be closing. Less council tax etc.

It's seems so ridiculous to change a system that is working. Harpenden is a lovely town, with a thriving center. Why don't you get a warden to patrol and get some money in from parking fines?

I never see any wardens.

Thank you for informing me of the outcome of the discussion following the parking consultation.

I would like to make the following points:

There was much made of the huge cost of covering parking in the district but no specifics. I would be interested to know how much is spent in Harpenden as beyond managing the paying car parks that already exist and the few (and often out of order) ticket machines for some on-street parking near the station, where do the costs come from? There are no parking officers in evidence - so no salaries there.

If there were officers then revenue could be made from the DOZENS who park inappropriately/illegally in Harpenden every day. I drove through the town centre earlier this week and there were 11 cars (not delivery/commercial vans) parked on double yellow lines. (Not including those with Blue Badge accreditation) This is a daily occurrence and is not discouraged because NO ACTION IS TAKEN!! WHY NOT?

It seems to Council have dismissed the views of the business owners in Harpenden who are concerned about a reduction in footfall and business as a result of introducing parking charges. I read in Harpendia that the Council sees nothing to support this. Clearly no-one has visited to see the already numerous empty commercial premises in Harpenden town centre. Some now empty for well over a year. Nor are you taking heed of the warnings of the Federation of Small Businesses, which were aired on BBC Breakfast this week - quoting a Harpenden retailer.

Interesting that the view is that having short time slots will encourage shoppers to move on - releasing spaces for others. Actually - as parking could now last longer than before with the town clogged with vehicles not moving on after an hour and releasing spaces. Yes - you will get revenue but there will not necessarily be increased retail revenue.

If there are to be charges (and I know there are), please do not resort to a parking app (and pay another tech company to run it). The internet coverage in parts of the town is dire. Simple machines please.

Are we really being told that we can free park for 30 minutes ONCE a day? How is that enforced?

Oh my - all this extra enforcement is going to cost dearly. No doubt the parking rates will be raised next year to cover that.

And lastly, encouraging people to walk and cycle is all well and good but doesn't help them manage large amounts of shopping! And given the British weather - not always a realistic option.

The Council have clearly decided on this issued and made minor appeasement adjustments - so we might feel we are being taken notice of. I have my doubts this will be read and will be astonished if there is ever a reply.

It is a shame that the parking charge is so high. We are 80+ year old pensioners who have lost our parking permit and this has stopped us going into Harpenden car parks plus we do not have smart phones to be able to pay a charge so the off street parking if we can find a space is our only option. Those people who make these changes will be our age one day and maybe just maybe they will realise what it is like to be old and discriminated against.

To whom this may concern,

I am writing as am appalled at the parking charges that the council are proposing for Jan 2025 in Harpenden. These are utterly ridiculous and way above the national average.

We are not all millionaires who live in and around Harpenden! Charges like this will make people shop elsewhere which will have a knock on effect to the local business community.

Surely this is not your intention?

We object strongly to the introduction of ALL parking being subject to charges in our town.

It is a retrograde step not to be able to occasionally park for free in your own town! The new meters and signage will add to an already cluttered roadscape. No thank you.

We would rather pay a separate annual tax if the Council needs to raise more money.

I am appalled to note the proposed parking charges that you are making as from January 2025 in Harpenden. Are you trying to kill the shops and businesses from trading within the vicinity as I'm sure that this is what the effect will be.

There are far too many high streets that are derelict and will never prosper again.

Please reconsider your very high charges which exceed most of Hertfordshire.

I am writing to object to the parking charges in Harpenden.

They are disproportionately expensive.

They will ruin the High Street.

95% of residents object to it.

They will force even more pressure and strain to businesses already struggling in the current climate.

There are significant objections to these suggestions and it appears that little notice is taken of the consultation which raises the question as to why bother with it.

No one wants and it is higher priced than anywhere else. Please re-think and consider longer free parking.

I am writing to strongly protest about your proposals to impose a tax on the residents of Harpenden in the form of parking charges, in order to fill the black hole in your finances caused by the mismanagement of budgets by the current council leadership.

The parking proposals will hit Harpenden's business's hard, potentially causing numerous businesses to go out of business and change the face of the town into one of closed shops and shutters.

This will result in a net decrease in business rates probably cancelling out any parking funds raised.

Previous council management have managed to spend within it's means and this proposal was cynically hidden from citizens during recent council elections.

This move clearly demonstrates the complete disregard and contempt for the people of Harpenden by St Albans council and I urge you strongly to reconsider and perhaps to start managing your budgets better.

I am writing to advise my strong rejection of your proposal to impose parking charges in Harpenden. I have lived in the town for 30 years, currently paying £4500 pa council rates to you, for very little value.

Your imposition of parking charges will destroy the town centre of Harpenden, with shops and commercial premises already in a fragile financial state (for example the length of time it has taken to find a business willing to take on the HSBC bank building at the corner of station road), and imposing parking charges will drive people to out of town shopping. This is also exacerbated by Waitrose shortly closing its busy car park, from what I understand.

I have also heard that St Albans council has squandered some £750k in trying to redevelop the old Public Halls site in Harpenden, only to put it up for sale with no plans attached to the site - pleading poverty as an excuse for imposing parking charges in Harpenden whilst squandering £750k of rate payers money, is clearly unacceptable.

I trust you will cancel the plans forthwith, and leave the town centre of Harpenden as it is.

To whom it may concern.

I remain completely against these proposals for the following reasons:-

1. They are only marginally different to those previously presented, which faced significant opposition from residents.
2. Charging for parking will unquestionably impact footfall and significantly change the character of the Town, as it has done in St Albans and other local local towns.
3. With a reduced footfall will come a reduction in rates revenue, which could end up being far more than is raised in the short term from parking.
4. Introducing charging will mean significant hassle for residents, particularly those like us 1.5 miles away from the town centre and the elderly, for whom alternative methods of transport are not reasonably available, especially in the winter.
5. Because detailed figures have not been released to demonstrate the council's "loss on parking", I can only assume that this is across the district as a whole, rather than specific to Harpenden, where there are surely no costs. If this is indeed the case I see no reason why Harpenden residents, particularly those like me who left St Albans for exactly these reasons and who now never visit it, should be forced to subsidize the loss.

PPB/01

I am aware that comments on the next stage of this proposal close this evening.

I am a resident of Harpenden. I remain opposed to the proposal to charge for parking.

Giving just 30 minutes a day will damage our vibrant high street. Whilst it might be possible to run a quick errand, it discourages shoppers from browsing in other shops and spending more time on the High Street.

Using apps and pay machines are not convenient. Machines are often broken and take time. Apps are extremely annoying and take a cut.

If you must charge us please just let us buy an annual permit. Otherwise the faff of paying each time is off putting.

Oh and btw, we are not stupid. 30 mins free is less than the x2 20 mins previously mentioned.

This submission is from both myself and my husband.

I wish to make you aware of my objection to the proposed parking charges proposed for Harpenden by St Albans District Council. These proposals will have a detrimental effect on already struggling high street retailers and will make shopping even more expensive for shoppers- not everyone in Harpenden is affluent and many already struggle to afford their weekly shop. On top of that the Council already receives revenue from a huge number of residents who have to pay for the privilege of parking outside their own housers, they will now have to pay again to go shopping in their own town.

Please think again before untold damage is done to Harpenden.

I would like to register my total opposition to the introduction of Parking Charges as outlined in the original and these amended proposals.

The present system works completely well and the change is purely a cynical 'money grab' by the council and will do nothing to enhance the areas around Harpenden.

Please waste no more of my and other tax payers money on this scheme and scrap it in its entirety and leave the parking 'as is'.

I am in my 70s and am horrified at the proposed increase in parking charges. Not only has the Senior Citizen parking permit been removed (unless one is on benefits) we are now expected to pay higher charges in all car parks and street parking. The highest in Hertfordshire!

My husband and I are totally opposed to these charges

Councillors and Officers please stop this stupid waste of money and time and listen to Harpenden residents and businesses.

Parking charges for on street parking must NOT be introduced as they will deter people from shopping in Harpenden town centre. Half an hour free parking is insufficienct, particularly for those who cannot walk quickly or who have prams or young children. Harpenden town centre has lost so many shops, banks, amenities already that there is little to attract people and additional charges for parking will kill this lovely little town. Parking charges in the car parks are already exorbitant and the machines a nightmare to use. I'd be happy to meet you in Amenbury car park to demonstrate the problems.

If the Council parking proposals deter visitors to Harpenden more businesses will close and the income from business rates will be lost. Do the sums!

If this draconian approach to parking is under the pretence of saving fuel emissions think again. People will drive to other towns or outer retail centres. Possibly driving through Harpenden but no longer stopping to spend money in the town. On street parking charges are also DISCRIMINATION against elderly, ill, those on lower incomes, anyone not on a good bus route etc etc. Unfortunately many of us cannot walk, cycle or travel by bus.

Please come to your senses and rethink this appalling policy.

I would like to voice my disagreement with the introduction of on street parking charges in Redbourn & Harpenden.

You are just going to make people park in streets further away, or just not go to the local shops at all.

Waitrose car park will become more of a nightmare. Also there are plans to get rid of some of the car parks!

All very short sighted. I for one won't pay to park!

I am writing to express strong disapproval for the proposed proposed charges set to be put in place on Harpenden High Street. It is a disgrace that these charges were guaranteed to not be put in place, and yet they are about to be, against what the citizens of Harpenden wanted. In addition the council has been very unclear about how we go about putting a stop to these charges which in the most simple terms is denying our right to fair democracy. If the majority of your constituents are actively trying to tell you that they do not want these charges it is your responsibility as our elected officials to do what we tell you to do, and not what you think is best for us- though even that is a stretch of an explanation for these regulations in this case as there is a clear lack of care and understanding of how this will affect the businesses on the High Street, especially the local ones that you should be supporting.

Firstly the link to your online consultation response is not working - I have tried via laptop and mobile advice. This automatically opens up this process and the council to challenge.

I am writing to confirm objection to the proposals. The new plans do not address the original concern.

1. Harpenden does not have other infrastructure (buses, cycle routes, pool cars) or options to deter people driving in to town. This is a non-inclusive measure that will affect the poorer members of society.
2. The impact on local businesses has not been considered and answered satisfactorily, they are stating that this will be a bigger challenge than Covid. Please share more details on the impact assessment of footfall etc?
3. Half an hour free time is not enough time for a town with an ageing demographic and many young families with push chairs etc.
4. The proposed charges need substantiating the charges proposed are considerably higher than any other surrounding towns.

Like 95% of residents in Harpenden, I am against this proposal and we urge you to reconsider.

I have noted the changes to the parking proposals recently received via email. If these are concessions, they are still badly thought out; in fact they seem worse than the original in that the free time is only 30 minutes rather than the previous 40 minutes, albeit that the latter was for two 20 minute periods. Whilst a 20 minute free period was unworkable, 30 minutes is hardly any better. It will still have a very negative affect on local retail businesses, many of which are hanging on and are now, in addition, having to deal with the affects of the recent budget, There is very little that shoppers or other visitors will be able to do in 30 minutes, apart from visiting just one location and then having to rush around. Are you trying to kill off our High Street by encouraging shoppers to drive to out of town outlets which have free parking. I ask that you reconsider these proposals in order to incorporate a 60 minute free parking period.

I wish to object to the parking charges being proposed to raise money for the Council. To enforce the proposals, many more staff would be required, the cost of which would negate any gain.

May I suggest that the Council introduces a bye law prohibiting anti-social pavement parking (on paths, kerbs, pavements, verges etc). The enforcement could be done by existing staff numbers, resulting in the required income from fines. Additionally, savings would be gained from fewer necessary repairs to pathways/ kerbs/ pavements & verges. Also, there would almost certainly be a reduction in the amount of claims against the Council for trip hazards from the damaged surfaces.

I believe that this suggestion would be acceptable to the majority of people, whilst allowing greater and consistent access to walkways for pedestrians, visually impaired residents, wheelchair and pushchair users.

I just wanted to express my totally disagreement to the proposal proposal to convert free limited waiting parking places in Harpenden and St. Albans to paid parking places, under section 14 of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

20 or 30 mins free parking is not enough time to do most of the errands in town, especially when most of us have children who simply delay us.

1h parking for £2.5 or 2h parking at the price of £5 is ridiculous! Not everyone in this town is millionaire. For some of us it will definitely deter us from coming to town.

Not only reducing the free parking time on time, but increasing the cost is just a way to get free money.

The damage that will be caused to charities, coffee shops, restaurants, the independent shops will die!

It just feel that no one cares about our preferences. Our locals and assuming that all who live in Harpenden can afford it, is unrealistic.

I hope many people express their opinion and the changes stop or at least begin reviewed with more consideration to minorities.

As a resident of Wheathampstead and so with a stake in parking in both St Albans and Harpenden, I would make the following observations on the proposed parking changes in both towns.

1. You state that there is no evidence that there will be negative impacts on the town centre businesses. This is not credible: there is anecdotal evidence from all over the country over many years that introducing paid parking in town centres tends to drive people to out of town retail parks or on-line shopping. To deny this and to disregard the feedback of the respondents to the consultation, a great many whom appear to live close the the centre of the towns, particularly Harpenden, is myopic. I believe the public response to the consultation, with 90% against the proposals, will more accurately reflect how the public at large reacts to it than the views of the council or its so-called experts. I believe you should conduct a post-implementation review of the impact on businesses to measure the actual impact. Evidence I have seen (see https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/2023/2/ITS15_The_evidence_base_for from the University of Leeds) suggests that many people will simply park further from the town centres and walk, particularly if the parking restrictions end within a mile of the centre, so you may shift the parking problem to residential streets which one assumes is not the objective. The same publication throws doubt on your assertion that introducing parking fees will not impact town centre businesses.

2. You appear to overlook that parking charges are in effect a tax on visiting the town centres and as such will change the way that people behave in ways that the council will not have foreseen. Your apparent insistence in proceeding will lead to unintended consequences, one of which could potentially be reduced town centre trade leading to businesses closing and therefore reduced

revenue to the council from business rates. I forecast that you will not gain overall the revenue you believe you will over the longer term.

3. I believe that two 20 minute free parking sessions daily is better than one 30 minute, but 2x30 minutes would be better still.

4. For those who live in the surrounding region to both towns, this will be a serious disincentive to visiting both and will only fuel the move to more on-line shopping at Amazon and the like or further moves to out of town shopping centres where parking is provided free. It is too far to expect people to walk into either town on a regular basis from the surrounding villages and the public transport system is not good enough for most people to consider that alternative to their cars.

5. Equally, this will also disincentivise visitors from outside the region. You should monitor visitor numbers to both towns to see how it changes.

Unfortunately, I feel that this is another example why politics at national and local level has come into disrepute over the last few years when it is clear that the politicians are not listening to their electorate and seem to think they know better. It ends up with the people who elect you suffering the consequences of poor decisions.

The modifications proposed do nothing to change the overall impact of charging for previously free limited parking places in Harpenden. My previous comments still apply. I am still opposed to the proposed imposition of these parking charges.

Harpenden does not have a parking or traffic problems that require further on road parking controls in order to improve these. This is purely a money making exercise. Monetising something which is currently controlled to fairly share the access to parking but free. Thirty minutes is not enough time to park, walk to the shop, shop, and walk back to the car. It would be totally insufficient to go to an opticians, dentists, barbers, hairdressers, Nationwide, library or Church. Additionally a large number of businesses are coffee shops, public houses and other eateries. Again, parking for any of these would accrue an additional cost for the motorist.

The impact on businesses will be lower footfall just when they are recovering from lockdown and now the impact of the new Government's NICS changes in the budget. This will cause businesses to close and reduce business rates. This is short sighted and will eventually reduce the attractiveness of shopping locally in Harpenden. Welwyn Garden City has free on street limited parking which will attract shoppers. SADC will also incur the additional cost of enforcing these new parking restrictions which will reduce the impact of fees received.

Map reference PPB/01

This proposal will have a significant, negative impact on the town.

Fewer people will stop and spend time there, reducing spend in local shops and businesses (potentially shutting them down) as well as eliminating all sense of community. I expect it will increase traffic given people will be dropping off and picking up, doubling the number of journeys.

This proposal should be heavily reconsidered

Please consider this email as a statement of opposition to the amended proposed TRO for parking charges in Harpenden and the scheme as a whole. I am unable to find / open the consultation so I find myself writing this email as an alternative which I intend to keep brief.

Removing spaces for public use is contrary to what was initially discussed and proposed, and resolves none of the parking issues;

30 mins does not resolve the alleged congestion issues;

30 minutes free is insufficient for the numerous reasons you have heard before and doubt whether the majority of feedback suggested this time frame in any event;

We know 30 minutes is more difficult and expensive to enforce;

When enforcement is already low, a scheme that is more difficult and more expensive is an inappropriate conclusion;

We know that blocks of 30 mins are more expensive than one hour due to admin fees;

Parking metres on the High Street where paths are narrow and congested are potentially dangerous.

Generally, in a bid to present a balanced and justifiable conclusion, please read with an open mind.

I, along with a number of other residents, councillors, retailers etc who have been in touch through various means, consider the budget line decision for on street parking to have been taken without consultation or proper debate, prematurely and not for a proper purpose. Despite the most recent document and statements to the contrary, the decision was clearly not made or treated at the time as being 'subject to consultation'. It became entrenched in the public realm suggestions for savings, and has become an entirely disproportionate and damaging measure considering the figure now sought from Harpenden is circa £105,000.

Whilst I have no doubt that all Cllrs felt under significant pressure to find huge savings to the budget, this pressure has in this instance led to an unjustifiable decision, the consequences of which had not been properly considered or debated. The fact that our Liberal Democrat MPs are repeatedly emphasising the need to support and protect local high streets illustrates the tension and problems with this single budget line. I would ask that Cllr Campbell be given the time and support to enable her to step back from this decision, and find rational alternatives.

There is, unfortunately, some evidence that debate and questions on matters such as this were not only unwelcome but were actively discouraged from October 2023 to February 2024 by council

leaders. This approach was, I believe, unacceptable and certainly undesirable. Pertinent questions were left unanswered and opposition councillors were expected to propose alternatives to the line amounting to £185k. The amount sought is now considerably less, yet councillors are being unduly pressured into voting for it for fear of presenting an unbalanced budget.

The public, and Harpenden Town Council, appear convinced that the decision should be challenged. I would urge you to consider alternatives to litigation which will cost the public and the councils time and money, which, as is repeated in each newspaper article written on this topic, is tight.

Other options I would ask you to explore include:

Work with HTC and HCC to resolve any real parking issues fairly;

5 days museum opening and / or reduced times;

Making EMC more profitable (by eg removing non compete clauses for catering);

Pay EA less;

Pay Veolia less;

Pay Morgan Sindell less;

Make redundancies of the staff members who do not perform to a high enough standard to achieve set targets;

Round up scheme (if there is any goodwill left in Harpenden), to make a small contribution to parking when making purchases;

Actively recruit parking CEO in Harpenden, eg retired, stay at home, job share etc.

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the implementation of parking consultation PPB/01.

I object to the introduction of parking charges in the limited waiting bays in Harpenden as this will have a severely detrimental effect on the already struggling high street. In addition, the proposed charges are insanely high.

I am a local resident in Harpenden, living in the Roundwood area.

Physical retailers - in Harpenden and elsewhere - are of critical importance in engaging communities and encouraging social cohesion, but they are currently beset by challenges on all sides - online competition, increasing rents and business rates, the impact of high inflation on costs, and recent tax/NI increases.

Imposing charges to park near the shops in Harpenden will only increase that burden. It is empirically likely that imposing monetary barriers on visitors to the shops in Harpenden will reduce footfall. This will potentially lead to closures of some of the town's existing shops, and a reduction in the retail mix in Harpenden, which is already becoming homogeneous.

To say that there is "no evidence" that this will be the consequence of imposing parking charges is facile. Common sense dictates that creating monetary barriers conveniently to access the shops in Harpenden will reduce consumers' appetite to do so. There is certainly no evidence to support the claim that imposing charges will make no difference to footfall, nor does it seem likely. It will deter people from visiting Harpenden's shops, and place retailers under still greater financial pressure - which it is reasonable to assume a good number, particularly valued independent stores, may find difficult to withstand.

I oppose the imposition of parking charge

I have lived in Harpenden for over 30 years, and I object most strongly to the proposed parking restrictions in Harpenden Town Centre. I believe that the proposed parking restrictions are totally unnecessary as the current system works very well and suits the needs of the Harpenden community (Harpenden residents and businesses alike). I can see no reason for these proposals other than the fact that St Albans District Council will undoubtedly raise some extra funds but at what cost to the Harpenden community? Will Harpenden Town Centre become yet another dying high street?

The Parking Development Team – St Albans City & District Council.

The changes to the Control of Parking order recently proposed concerning charges for on street parking in Harpenden will still have a detrimental effect on the community. Therefore my previous comments are still valid and I am still opposed to the implementation of parking charges.

Where is the evidence that Harpenden has a parking or traffic problem that requires on street parking controls in order to improve them? This is purely a money- making exercise on behalf of the Council. Businesses will not only be struggling with the increased costs of the minimum wage and extra National Insurance but also fewer customers as a result of these charges. Shoppers can go elsewhere if parking is free and convenient in other towns. There is also the prospect of more online shopping being undertaken therefore leading to a further decline of the High Street. It will eventually lead to the closure of more businesses in Harpenden. This in turn will result in a reduction in business rate revenue for the Council.

I wish to OBJECT to the current proposals.

The council modifications to the proposed order will impact the retail businesses in Harpenden and will have unintended consequences which lead to a loss of revenue from business rates as well as making business very difficult in Harpenden.

I am extremely opposed to the proposed changes.

They are entirely to the detriment to Harpenden residents of all ages.

In relation to the latest revised proposals, it is clear that the district council has not given weight or respect to the views of residents and businesses within the town. What is the point of representative democracy if you will not listen?

As an older resident needing to visit the town centre regularly, not least for medical appointments and trips to the pharmacy, and the only remaining post office, and library, and to support local shops, and to meet friends, and to enjoy our town, you seem not to realise the cumulative cost of parking charges.

I do not have a bicycle and walking only works in fine weather if I have a spare hour or two.

Your amended free periods - one of 30 minutes as against two of 20 minutes - is a curious move. Is this a concession really? What can be done in 30 minutes if I am to be allowed only this single visit? The queue alone in the Post Office will use this up on many occasions. And will I have to stand in the cold and rain to submit my car details to you?

I still do not accept that the current system is being widely abused; I use it myself and have little trouble finding a spot to park for my essential visits and I do not overstay the stated periods. There is an efficient turnover of the free spaces.

Other than an intention to raise money for the district council, and perhaps to penalise car users, and inconvenience and alienate the community, the proposals have no logic.

You claim to be losing money on parking across the district. I cannot see how on street parking is costing you money in any material way, and I do not know what the indirect costs and other overheads you have used to justify your position. It is a flimsy case. Perhaps you are inefficient in your management of this area.

As Liberal Democrats, committed to community politics, you have certainly found an odd way to demonstrate this commitment now that you are in control.

As a St Albans based council you might also like to reflect on the appropriateness of imposing this change on Harpenden. Local people should have the deciding voice - and you already know what that community voice is saying. Our town council is best placed to advise you.

I would urge you to think again; this is I suggest, a bad political move on your part and a complete nuisance.

I appreciate that the Council is short of funds, but the proposals to remove the current parking arrangements in Harpenden are completely contrary to the town's prosperity. The removal of the 1 hr free on street parking will have the effect of killing the High Street which has been slowly recovering from Covid days. It may sound silly but people will vote with their feet and not come. Worse, they will go to Aldi or Lidl where they can park. Further it will really be impossible to get a space at Waitrose. Which will be the first supermarket to close?

It will also be a great inconvenience since although 30 mins. may be free by the time you have "paid" you will be lucky to have 20 mins. left - just about enough time to pick up a prescription or if you are lucky buy a loaf of bread from the supermarket. Furthermore, how are we to pay. On an App? As a senior citizen I struggle with the amount of online technology we are expected to use and understand. And I am not alone; many of my contemporaries just can't cope at all and some don't even have a mobile phone. One much younger friend has 19 parking apps on her phone! So you say, walk or cycle. For many years I did cycle but it is difficult to bring a family shop back on a bike and regrettably I can no longer cycle safely. Nor can I walk from near Kinsbourne Green.

Finally, I attend functions at the EMC. With the number of people going to the Leisure Centre and up to 500 attending the EMC parking is a nightmare at any time of the day.

Please, please don't spoil our thriving "village".

We object strongly to all parking being subject to charges in our town.

It is a retrograde step not to be able to occasionally park for free in your own town! I would rather pay a separate annual tax if the Council needs to raise more money.

I no longer shop in St Albans because of the parking restrictions. Please do not do the same to Harpenden. This is a regressive way to collect money and will hit those who have the least resources most. It will also hit the local businesses at a time when they are suffering from on line competition

I'm in agreement with the need for parking amendments to be enforced as currently lots of cars are using the high street as all day parking. However I don't believe that a charge is the way forward, maybe consider shorter time allowances and more traffic warden presence. Turning the bays on Leyton Green into residents only will add to the already short spaces for shoppers to park. Surely when these residents purchased their houses they knew what the parking situation would be like. The pay and display car parks can be used for this purpose. The High Street is important to the shops and vibe of Harpenden and need to be retained as free but controlled in a better way.

I am writing to urge you not to implement the proposed parking charges in Harpenden. These are going to be wholly detrimental to our high street and businesses need our support without adding this burden of poodle avoiding coming to the town centre.

The proposed £2.50 fee is very expensive. If you are going to implement such changes, then I think bringing them into line with prices eg on berkhamsted high street would be the way to go, I am writing to object to parking charges in Harpenden. I use the town centre mostly for the library, and these charges would put me off and send me to other libraries instead. We regularly pop into Harpenden for an hour or so, but given we live on the edge of Southdown with small children it is not always practical to walk, and the bus service is expensive and infrequent. If the bus service was more regular and cheaper we would use this instead. Or if there were cycle lanes we would cycle. But these do not exist so are forced to drive. If we have to pay we will either park further out putting pressure on residential streets, or take our shopping and library business elsewhere. This will be detrimental for our local businesses and for the library which I fear in turn will be closed down, which is really bad for the children of the future.

Please reconsider these charges. Even increasing the initial free time to an hour would be better, but 2 hours would give people chance to browse and spend money in our town. It would be a shame if our thriving high street suffered like so many do.

As a resident of Harpenden I am appalled by the plans to charge for parking on the High Street. Do you not realise this will KILL the High Street - people will not come in to shop / go for coffee/ lunch / hairdressers etc etc if the have to pay for parking on top of their expenditure !

This is not the way to raise funds - this is a way to destroy Harpenden

I strongly object to the council's parking proposals in Harpenden.

They are bad for business in the town.

The proposals will ruin the welcoming character of the town, where visitors and local people pop into the village to shop.

There should remain 1 hour of free parking.

Everyone can see that this is simply a revenue raising project to raise money for the council, which takes no account of the needs of local businesses or people who live in the town.

If these proposals are bulldozed through they will not be forgotten by residents come the next round of local elections.

I wish to make my feelings known about the proposed parking plan for

Harpenden.

As someone who has undergone chemotherapy for cancer and suffered a torn

achilles tendon last year I am unable to walk into the town as I used

to. If I take a bus from Southdown it requires a 15 minute walk to the

bus stop and means I have to plan to spend a long time away from home.

At present, I am able to 'nip' into Harpenden, park for an hour or so

for free and then drive back home. If I had to pay for the privilege of

parking in my home town I would prefer to go somewhere further away

where there is a wider selection of shops available and I get better

value for money.

I don't feel that a 30 minute free parking session per day is sufficient. Knowing that many of my friends and colleagues feel the same as I do, I believe that this will strongly impact the high street and Harpenden will change from being a thriving community to a declining shopping town with even more empty retail premises than there are now.

I also feel that your proposed parking plan is flawed, with high set-up and running costs which will yield a lower income than you hope, as well as being detrimental to the commercial health of the town centre.

Yours in hope that you will consider the feeling of Harpenden residents over and above the shortcoming in St Albans Council's budget.

I'm writing to object to the proposed parking charges in Harpenden. The modifications will make little difference and I'm wondering why the proposed parking charges in Harpenden are the highest in the County.

It seems that St Albans District Council is bent on ruining Harpenden town centre.

Are you really going to destroy all the shops and cafes in Harpenden by you stupid parking charges.

I object strongly to these proposals. It will kill our local traders at a time when we are being encouraged to support them. Where are you getting the funds to install parking meters?

Please reconsider the parking fee, we have lived here 58 years and our age group struggle enough with machines, this will not benefit the local shops at all as like us many people will not visit our lovely town.

Do not understand why you are trying to destroy the autumn of my life in Harpenden. I am 80 and go into the town every day and spend money in the shops and cafes. Complications re apps and excessive charges will dilute my visits. I need at least two hours. At full price that means around £1500 per year. Have been in touch with Paul de kort and understand there is a proposal for a £190 per year seniors permit but only for off street parking. Whilst I unlike some can afford this, not very good if pricing policy drives all others to off street parking. At the very least the high seniors permit charge proposed should allow me to park anywhere. Cannot help thinking that the Libs are milking the reasonably well off in Harpenden and in doing so are forcing folks like me into isolation and depriving our lovely shops and cafes of much needed revenue. As I have said before a shot in both feet. Next years elections will see you out.

I am writing with regard to the parking 'consultation' you are carrying out in Harpenden and the amendments to the order.

I am totally against paid on street parking in the town, Harpenden is a thriving town because it is easy to park. Your proposed restrictions will decimate retail and business in the town. I am not sure what sort of consultation this is when the majority are not in favour and you carry on regardless.

The proposal of adding an extra 10 minutes to the 20 minutes free parking is tokenism and does not change my view that we should not have paid parking and ugly meters littering the streets and the environment.

Your proposed parking charges are extortionate. I park in Devon for £3 for 24 hours which is reasonable. £5 for 2 hours is ludicrous and I have no intention of every paying for parking in Harpenden just to line the pockets of the SADC. You are removing most of the car parks for housing so there won't be a High Street to shop in at all and the knock on from that is you won't have business rates either.

You need to rethink this proposal as I am not in favour of paid on street parking and never will be.

If this is a genuine consultation in a democracy you have to take account that the majority are not in favour and scrap the proposed order.

No doubt you will find other ways to take the money off us via raised council taxes, green bins etc.

I am writing to say that I wholeheartedly disagree with the parking restrictions proposed for Harpenden town centre. It would be a complete insult to the local businesses, to the community who use them so well and to the town spirit. Harpenden is a town, not a commercial city and therefore should be run as such. It is not overrun with people coming in to park and the current restrictions of 1 hour/2 hours provide an opportunity for people to use the town but not abuse their stay. Who goes for lunch for 30 mins? Who attends an exercise class for 30 mins? Who has a physio appointment for 30 mins? This would be impossible, particularly for people with young children and babies and elderly who are going to be punished the most.

I am a resident of Harpenden and I am sad that we are having to jump from free parking, albeit restricted to an hour or two hours ... to having to pay £2.50 an hour. People come to Harpenden from outside the area because they like the "quaint individual shops" that we have in the town. This is GOOD for our local businesses and GREAT for the vitality of our high street. However, parking is not that easy to find and if we compound that with the parking costs that are being suggested, we are highly likely to lose that business.

With this in mind, please can you at least extend the half hour free parking allowance to 1 hour. This will definitely mitigate the blow of parking costs to those wishing to visit Harpenden. Yes, they will have to pay something ... but it will still give them incentive to come because they will still be able to enjoy a leisurely browse without feeling it to be an extortionate amount to have to suddenly pay.

Please, if you are introducing this, please, please, please, go in more slowly. Sudden and sharp just results in unhappiness and resentments which isn't good for the well-being of our communities.

I would like to object to the parking proposals for Harpenden. While parking charges may be necessary the charges proposed are some of the highest in Hertfordshire and should be reduced/removed to ensure the services offered in town are not jeopardised. The high street can not afford a reduction in footfall which is more than likely to follow should the charges not be reconsidered.

I wish to register my strong opposition to the imposition of any parking tariffs in Harpenden. I believe it will be damaging to the town and totally counter productive.

I am horrified that the council is continuing to pursue their proposal to introduce parking charges in Harpenden. Whilst I appreciate a solution needs to be found to the parking issues, this will not solve the problem and will kill the trade on the high street. I will not be visiting the high street if I am required to pay to park when all I want to do is my weekly shop. While I try to walk into town whenever I can I, there are occasions when driving is necessary to carry bags of shopping. I will alternately go to one of the many out of towns supermarkets where no charge is made. This will mean that the casual purchases I would make in other local shops that I might visit at the same time will not happen. From talking to friends they all have the same attitude - this will not be good for the high street shops and a large number of closed shops will ruin the overall atmosphere of Harpenden.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal.

I wish to give a response to the latest St Albans Parking proposals .

I believe that there is a great deal of opposition expressed through petitions and a consultation with over 1500 responses

The proposals would damage the character of my town in which I have lived in for nearly 60 years .

It would greatly damage: traders ; access to library; medical providers including chemists ; charity shops ; hospitality providers ; people having mobility problems , If retailers have to close down there will be a significant loss of revenue .

I urge you to think again and ask residents and the Town Council for suggestions to seek alternative methods to balance the books

It will be seen as arrogant to ignore the democratic wishes of residents ..

Re the proposed changes to parking in Harpenden High St. I object to the proposed changes to charge for parking after the free 30 mins is used. This will harm our retailers who already are struggling. Harpenden is very lucky to have many shop units filled. If we lose some retailers from the high street then there is even less kerb appeal for people to visit our shops and then go elsewhere eg gypsy lane in Luton (free parking), and bigger shopping areas such as St Albans.

The free 1 hour limit is sufficient for most people visiting the shops. I do worry that by charging for parking after 30 mins, you end up with those who can afford to, parking for a lot longer and making it more difficult for other people to get into the high st. It's just not helpful all round. I understand the council owns a number of these retail units. If true, then the loss in rental income will surely be more significant to the council funding than it will generate from parking charges it hopes it will generate. You would be better to consider charging more for resident and visitor permits as those are already set quite low and could be increased without seeming unreasonable, and don't affect the high st.

I would like to air my objection to this proposal and the amendment to bring in charges for parking in the centre of Harpenden. This cynical 'money-grab' will not serve the residents, retailers or anyone using the area. The present system self-regulates and does not need changing. 30 minutes is too short a time and the present regime of 1 hour at least should be retained.

The council may think it will fill their coffers, but the action will kill off the centre of Harpenden as a viable shopping centre and no parking will mean no money as people vote with their feet (tyres?) and go elsewhere making the present shops untenable forcing them to move or close altogether. Also the cost of implementing the scheme must cost more than it would return!

<p>Please ensure that no further expenditure of my tax money is wasted on this ill thought out and alienating scheme.</p>
<p>Why are the council discriminating against the residents of the area by invoking the highest parking charges in the area. While I understand that parking charges are inevitable I do not understand why the council are taking short term measures seemingly encouraged by the politics of envy that seems to be an ailment of political life which in the longer term will affect the income from rates etc as the centres of Harpenden and St Albans suffer from these absurd anti - growth policies.</p>
<p>With regards to the proposed new parking restrictions in Harpenden, I would like to strongly urge the reintroduction of free one hour parking in existing designated roads as 30 minutes free parking does not allow people with enough time to do more than one basic errand or make an appointment.</p> <p>It will result in decreased footfall and trade in the shops resulting in some shops having to close.</p>
<p>Secondly what is happening re senior car parking permits for which we have had no further news. Many senior residents do not have a computer and are not au fait with parking apps.</p>
<p>I am a wheathampstead resident, unemployed and visit Harpenden twice a week for doctors or shopping in the local shops but find the parking restrictions will not help and will encourage me to visit another town where parking is free or cheaper</p> <p>Please consider this action before voting yes</p> <p>Allow free parking 1 hour</p> <p>Aloe free parking 2 hour</p> <p>Don't limit the bays.</p> <p>Allow Harpenden to remain welcoming</p>
<p>The proposals suggested will kill off what is already a struggling high street. You should be encouraging shoppers and diners into Harpenden rather than encouraging them elsewhere to places with less prohibitive parking fees. High rents and greedy landlords have already reduced the town to a range of hairdressers estate agents and restaurants with barely a shop left. By increasing parking fees you add another nail into the coffin of a once thriving town</p>
<p>I do not support your proposal to charge to park in Harpenden High Street.</p>
<p>I wish to OBJECT to the current proposals.</p> <p>The council modifications to the proposed order will impact the retail businesses in Harpenden and will have unintended consequences which lead to a loss of revenue from business rates as well as making business very difficult in Harpenden.</p>
<p>I am responding to the consultation on changes to parking restrictions in Harpenden.</p> <p>I can understand the need to increase income. My opposition to the current proposal is that it does not encourage residents or visitors to spend any significant time in the town.</p> <p>My proposal would be to allow an hour free parking, rather than just 30 mins.</p>
<p>The proposed parking fees are an outrage and will severely affect businesses on the High Street. What on earth</p> <p>are this council thinking of to even consider levying such proposed, totally extortionate, parking fees.</p> <p>Living in Harpenden doesn't mean that we are all rolling in available cash for goodness sake.</p>
<p>I am writing to show my huge opposition to the change in parking requirements on Harpenden high street and around the town. It is going to close down our high street and stop people shopping local. The price you are making the parking is shocking! This is appalling and as a Harpenden resident I disagree with the proposal, and believe it should stay as it is.</p> <p>introducing parking charges to Harpenden will kill off any small businesses and discourage people from visiting the shops and restaurants in town . It is a disastrous proposal. People who have cars will go to out of town places where there is free parking and others without cars will be very disadvantaged. That group includes poorer and others who are ready struggling with cost of living and poor public transport services. I urge the council to consider other ways to raise revenues.</p>
<p>I strongly object to the proposed changes to parking restrictions in Harpenden (map ref: PPB/01). I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this policy would have on both local residents and business owners.</p> <p>Many local residents, especially those who live on the outskirts of Harpenden or in the surrounding countryside, rely on this free parking to shop, dine, and engage with local services. Similarly, the existing parking system is crucial for supporting local businesses, many of whom are already struggling in the current economic climate. This proposed change would create additional financial</p>

and logistical challenges for residents and businesses and result in more custom being diverted to online businesses.

Moreover, the proposed changes will exacerbate congestion on surrounding streets as drivers search for alternative free parking.

I urge the council to reconsider this proposal and preserve the current parking arrangements of at least 1 - 2 hours free parking.

Hi SADC Parking Development Team -

I am writing to register my disagreement with St Albans City and District Council Order 202.

The way this has been handled has been a disgrace. There has been no true public consultation, nor has there been any clear behavioural research or analysis into the REAL parking problem in Harpenden. We all know you have issues with parking in St Albans, and a financial hole you are trying to fill, but please do not punish Harpenden for that mismanagement.

Firstly, if you hired a traffic warden to ticket people who ALREADY park illegally on double yellow and single yellow lines CONSTANTLY in the centre of Harpenden, you probably would have made up your deficit by now. Every day I see people parking illegally in front of Sainsbury's and on the main high street, over the paths and on areas where there is no parking allowed.

Your proposal does NOT solve that issue and will just alienate law abiding residents.

1) You are retro-fitting a solution (devised in a conference room) to solve THE WRONG PROBLEM. Please hold fire on this parking decision until you actually do proper user research and observe the ACTUAL behaviour of drivers in the town.

2) The ACTUAL problem is there is no consequence for people parking illegally. Adding a parking timespan without having traffic wardens walking around to enforce it is just creating another problem.

3) Ultimately, charging for Harpenden residents to pay to park in their own town, to solve St Albans' financial shortfall is HUGELY unfair. Also, you don't take into account disabled, the elderly or people who work in Harpenden.

You are blindly grouping Harpenden into your decisions for St Albans when both are VERY DIFFERENT.

You will CRUSH the centre of Harpenden and have a wholly detrimental impact on people who want to go there to shop, eat and socialise.

would like to register my objection to the proposals to place further restrictions to the free parking allowed in Harpenden town centre.

Allowing only 30 mins free is highly likely to cause significant reduction to trade and see local businesses struggle.

30 mins is not long enough to visit a variety of retailers especially if you are elderly. My mother who is 88 years old and a local resident often comes with me to town and this is not enough time for her.

The reality is that the free parking is a major reason to choose to stay in Harpenden as opposed to visiting other towns. The shops are already limited and not a draw in and of themselves. If the parking charges are introduced as planned I am very likely to shop elsewhere far more frequently.

PPB/01 - Comment to proposal re: Harpenden Limited Waiting Bays

Please note my family are against the proposed changes regarding the limited waiting bays in Harpenden town centre and wish to see the free parking bays remain.

We want Harpenden to continue to be a thriving and family-friendly town - we cannot see how the proposed parking charges will do anything other than put shoppers off visiting Harpenden, pushing them instead to online retailers and seriously reducing footfall, and therefore revenue, to our hard-working local shops and businesses.

For those with young children, 30 minutes free parking is simply not enough to get your shopping or 'jobs' done in town with little ones with small legs who are slow to walk. It will put families off visiting, which is the last thing the town needs.

Furthermore, we are local residents - if you remove the free parking in the town centre you will simply push out the problem. Those who don't wish to pay to park will instead look for local residential roads to park on, causing problems for stretched local roads already full of residents' cars. The additional cars on those roads, which are not equipped to handle the extra traffic, will make driving conditions more dangerous, as parking is maxed out and consequently visibility and safe passing places for motorists and pedestrians alike is seriously reduced.

Please take these and other comments seriously and listen to your local residents to ensure Harpenden remains a thriving town.

I wish to object against the St Albans City and District Council proposal to convert free parking spaces in Harpenden to paid parking spaces.

The proposed costs for paid parking is extortionate and the highest in Hertfordshire!

Our cost of living has already increased with most people struggling to afford the cost of food, petrol, etc.

By taking away free parking in town it will create added stress , forcing our family to make some tough choices on where to spend our money.

It will have a decremental effect on the shops as customers will rather shop elsewhere or shop online.

It will cause distress and discomfort to disabled people. It may take them longer to do their shopping and result in increased parking fees causing further distress.

Lots of people in Harpenden work from home and sometimes go into town to get lunch. The cost of parking will make it too expensive so people will not support local businesses to get their lunches.

I urge you to not proceed with the proposal. It will kill local businesses and make Harpenden a very unhappy horrible place to live.

Ref: PPB/01 - I reject the new proposal for Parking charges in Harpenden

I have operated a business on Harpenden High Street for the past three years. However, I decided not to renew our lease and closed on 28th September 2024.

This decision was driven by three key factors. The proposed parking changes posed a significant threat to an already struggling high street. I could not, in good conscience, commit to another five-year lease under these circumstances. St Albans Council and landlords continue to increase rates and rents, and now parking charges are being introduced.

What do you expect to happen? We are already witnessing more and more vacant shops, or spaces being replaced by big brands that contribute little to the community.

These policies fail to support local people, the very people who the council is supposed to work for. It fails to support, elderly th families and local business. Those who who travel and work here will not be affected and likely will lose jobs - creating yet another obstacle for business owners who are already struggling to find and retain staff. The council is directly responsible for two of the factors that led to my decision but also what will damage the high street.

Businesses need support-not to be taxed from every angle. While my business continues to thrive in London and Aldeburgh, Suffolk, I was not prepared to remain in Harpenden (where I live) under a council that chooses to ignore its residents and imposes taxes without regard for clear objections.

Watching this council ignore the local community to instead money grab, is truly appaulling.

I am very concerned that your proposal to make charges for on street parking, in the centre of Harpenden, will have a negative impact on the viability of the Harpenden Town Centre shops.

As a long term resident of Harpenden I note the effectiveness of your parking management team has been limited and the revenue opportunity afforded to you, from enforcing the existing parking regulations, is being missed. Building on this failure you now appear to be striving to make Harpenden Town Centre a trading failure.

While I understand the Parking Budget in the District is in deficit, no analysis of the cause of this shortfall has been offered. Such analysis could have informed a solution which addressed the source of the loss, rather than proposing fresh unnecessary and wasteful expenditure, on a scheme which will destroy Harpenden Town Centre trading.

The economic case for your proposal has not been set out or made.

Proposed Modifications to Parking Restrictions in Harpenden and St. Albans - FROM St Nicholas Primary School Church Green Harpenden (REDACTED)

I, [redacted] at St Nicholas Primary School write on behalf of all staff to formally object to the proposed modifications to parking regulations in Harpenden, particularly with regard to the changes that will affect parking availability for staff and parents of our school which is located in central Harpenden. These proposed changes, which include the conversion of free limited waiting parking places to paid parking would significantly affect our school community, in the following ways:

1. Impact on Parents' Ability to Drop Off and Pick Up Children

Many parents of children attending St Nicholas Primary School rely on short-term parking in the areas affected by the proposed changes.

Families with multiple siblings attending school often require visits to and from more than once a day. Whilst understanding that your new proposals suggest parking will be free of charge until 9am your proposed offer of a single 30-minute free session and chargeable parking periods in 30-minute increments will place a financial burden on staff parents and guardians. Our whole community need to park multiple times throughout the day for regular school-related activities such as progress meetings, concern meetings, assemblies, church services, PTA events/meetings or parent workshops. The cumulative costs of paid parking could become prohibitively expensive. This may lead to further parking difficulties as some families may avoid using paid spaces, resulting in overcrowded residential streets and potentially increased traffic as parents search for alternative free spaces. It may also lead to our school losing pupil numbers as parents may view parking charges as a prohibitively expensive and negative reason behind the location of our school.

2. Impact on Staff Parking and Workday Flexibility

At St Nicholas Primary School we have a total of 6 parking spaces for a staff of 21 (not including) lunchtime staff.

School staff, including teachers and administrative personnel, also rely on the availability of short-term parking spaces to carry out their duties. The current free parking options allow staff to quickly pop out for off site- meetings, Continued Professional Development (courses) and other professional responsibilities which include visits to other schools.

Currently a rota is used for our 6 spaces and staff park in town for 2 hour slots switching parking throughout the day in line with break times.

Reducing the availability of free parking and introducing paid parking would significantly disrupt the ability of school staff to manage their daily tasks efficiently. The financial cost of paid parking and the reduced time available for free parking may impact staff morale and productivity, as well as increase stress during workdays. Most importantly, introducing paid parking would be a prohibiting factor to recruitment to teaching and teaching assistant roles in school as prospective employees would simply choose to apply to work in alternative Harpenden schools as many of these can offer free parking. It is important to remember that salaries for many roles in our school do not provide for the costs associated with the parking charges you are proposing.

4. Limited Options for Visitors and External Professionals

The school regularly hosts visitors, external professionals, and volunteers who require access to the school for meetings, assessments, and events. The reduction in free parking opportunities would limit the ability of these visitors to access the school easily. Visitors who do not regularly attend may find it difficult to adjust to the new paid parking system, leading to confusion and frustration, and potentially impacting the ability of the school to carry out certain functions or collaborate with outside organizations.

5. Increased Pressure on Local Residential Streets

Both parents and staff who are unable to park in the designated paid parking areas may be forced to use nearby residential streets for short-term parking. This would lead to an increase in parking congestion in these areas, causing frustration for local residents and creating potential safety concerns due to increased traffic volume around school drop-off and pick-up times. Additionally, this could lead to increased pressure on already-limited residential parking spaces, potentially leading to further tensions between the school community and local residents.

6. Lack of Consideration for the School Community's Needs

The school is a central hub in the community, and parking is an essential part of its operation. The proposed changes do not appear to have taken into account the specific needs of the school community, including the importance of quick, affordable, and accessible parking for parents, staff, and school visitors. We believe that the council should have engaged in more direct consultation with the school to understand how the changes would affect day-to-day operations and the smooth functioning of the school environment.

7. Potential Negative Impact on Pupil Welfare

Parents and staff who face increased pressure due to parking difficulties may experience heightened stress, which could affect their ability to engage positively with the school community.

Conclusion

Given the significant negative impact the proposed changes would have on parents, staff, and the broader school community, we strongly object to the proposed modifications to parking regulations in Harpenden. I urge the council to reconsider these proposals and consult more thoroughly with St Nicholas Primary Primary School to find a solution that balances the needs of the school community with the broader aims of the parking scheme.

One clear solution is to approve an education parking permit allowing staff free parking during their contracted hours. You should also approve a further parking offer for wider members of our

school community to ensure that your new proposals do not effectively become a local TAX for those parents choosing our school for their children.

Thank you for considering my objections. I look forward to hearing your response.

I would like to express my objection to the proposed changes to parking within Harpenden from January 2025.

Not only do I believe that these charges are unnecessary but I truly believe it will detract people from visiting and spending money within the local area, the fees proposed represent the highest in the county.

I write in continued objection and frustration at SADC's proposal to introduce paid parking along the high street.

This is not desired by the population of Harpenden and not needed. The Council have failed at every opportunity to consult Harpenden Town Council to review alternative revenue generating proposals

SADC continue to act in a dictatorial manner forgetting that they are elected officials to represent the mass population. Part of the issue with politics today is that our representatives act/behave in any way they wish without regard for the views of those who voted them in. The fact that the machines have already been bought would suggest this consultation is a complete mockery and simply a tick box exercise.

If SADC really cared about the high street then they would take the high volume of objections and withdraw plans until a thorough review has been undertaken. Additionally, the charging (highest in Hertfordshire) is just a money grabbing opportunity. We aren't all rich people in Harpenden who can afford to/care to fritter away money.

Overall, very disappointed in SADC and Victoria Collins. All in all their behaviour has left a very sour taste

I, like many others, object to this proposal to charge extortionate and disproportionate rates for on street parking in Harpenden. I also note how hard you have made it to comment directly on the portal to this proposal! It is yet another cowardly move by the council to make unnecessary changes that are solely revenue generating for themselves with no positive impact to the local economy or environment. This will be detrimental to High Street businesses in already extremely challenging times. It will deter people from shopping local and push parked cars to surrounding streets, making any parking issues even worse!

I strongly object to the amended proposal to convert free parking on Harpenden High Street to paid parking bays with a 30 minute free period. I believe this will be hugely detrimental to the wonderful local shops we have on our High Street and risk changing our street scene forever. Harpenden is already suffering from high business rates (higher than many affluent London areas) and many businesses are already struggling. We should be doing everything we can to protect and preserve the lovely High Street that we currently have. Indeed, I believe the Lib Dem's pledged to support the high street in their recent campaign.

From my own experience, despite living within walking distance of the town centre, I frequently have to stop off in town on my way through to Southdown or St Albans, as I do not have the time in my day for a leisurely walk there and back. Nor is it possible to carry my awkward parcels into town or shopping on the way back. I might stop off to drop off some parcels, collect a prescription, buy a birthday card/gift, pick up groceries, grab a takeaway coffee etc etc and would typically spend an hour or so on each visit. The queue at the Post Office alone is frequently more than 30 minutes. If the ease of free parking is removed, I would be minded to drive to the Co-op in Southdown and use the post office there, missing my frequent opportunist visits to the likes of Threads, Serena Hart, Oui, the Home Edit and Thorns.

I completely disagree with comparing Harpenden to St Albans and treating both town centres with the same broad brush. I lived in St Albans for 12 years before moving back to my childhood town of Harpenden. St Albans is a huge city centre with a vast array of large shops. Residents don't just 'pop' to the shops in St Albans like we do in Harpenden; in fact it's one of the advantages of Harpenden that I value the most. I think it will be terribly sad to lose that ease and convenience.

I'm afraid this response is brief and hastily written as I am short on time to submit my response before the deadline, so I have not addressed all my concerns, however, the priority is to register my objection to this damaging proposal.

Hi

Id like to comment on the parking charges coming into force. I pop into town all the time on my lunch break to pick the odd thing up. If I had to pay parking charges, I wouldn't.

This is massive going to affect trade for the town centre.

We do not agree with this at all.

I'd like to voice my opposition to the proposed parking charges in Harpenden. This will ruin the local businesses walk in traffic and potentially the feeling of everyone walking around the town which we all love.

I am writing again to oppose the introduction of parking charges within Harpenden town centre.

You will get many objections regarding local business loss, costs of dropping children to school, doctors and dentists appointments- all that I wholeheartedly agree with! It's appalling that Harpenden residents are being penalised for badly run finances within St Albans! It appears that some of the St Albans charges are being delayed to allow for a proper review, but going ahead in Harpenden despite 95% objection.

I am writing on behalf of the people working in Harpenden town centre. I work 4 days a week as a viewing guide for a local estate agency, so unable to walk to work, as my role is driving from location to location to show clients properties. In between these viewings I am required to be back in the office to collect or replace keys, property details and details of clients (for my personal safety). If these charges are introduced it will make my role near impossible to continue. It is already a poorly paid role, but if I have to pay for parking at the rate of £1.25 per 30 minute period it would mean losing 10% of pay per hour and there is a maximum of 2 hours per day which just doesn't work in my role as sometimes I am in the office longer than that if there are no viewings.

I doubt I am the only person in this situation. The car parks are already full and I won't be able to park on the street for more than 2 hours per day! What is the solution to this?? Has this been thought out at all or just a way to try and pay for financial mistakes in St Albans?

Please reconsider implementing these charges. The detrimental effect it will have on residents, business owners and employees is going to be devastating. I have lived in this town for over 50 years and am so sad that SADC is trying its best to destroy it.

Thank you for reading and please reconsider or at least carry out a proper democratic review!

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Harpenden, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the recently new proposed parking changes/charges in Harpenden, specifically the proposed parking charges and the conversion of 5 Leyton Green bays to residential only use. I am having to email you as unfortunately the online consultation is extremely difficult to navigate.

As a long time patron of several local shops, I've noticed a steady decline in visits attributed to expensive car parking charging. Small businesses rely heavily on foot traffic, and these changes are very likely to deter both existing and potential customers from visiting regularly or stopping by for an impulse buy. The heightened costs and reduced accessibility will make shopping in Harpenden less attractive compared to neighbouring towns with more favourable parking conditions. If parking charges don't deter shoppers, then please answer this question : why has St Albans for Black Friday introduced a reduced rate parking for the weekend - £2 per day? Why introduce parking charges to Harpenden as one of the highest in the county, coupled with the reduction in available parking spaces ; Leyton green, Development of the Station Car Park and also the potential of Waitrose car park into housing. Many residents and visitors choose to stop in Harpenden because of its convenient and different car parking options (free and to pay options). Starting to charge for on street parking will likely reduce sales and cause closures of our beloved shops and cafes. A survey conducted by Threads and independent gift shop in Harpenden showed a 35% drop in trade would happen. This could have a cascading effect, harming not just businesses but the entire community's economic wellbeing.

The traffic will move through side roads with the proposed changes and will lead to higher vehicle emissions and exacerbate air pollution due to more cars idling and moving through side roads which will degrade the local air quality, negatively impacting the health of residents and the overall environment. Additionally, the increased traffic congestion contradicts the goal of reducing congestion by merely relocating it. This not only undermines our towns efforts to promote a greener environment but also contributes to noise pollution and decreases the overall quality of life for residents. The proposals fails to address the root causes of congestion and instead creates new environmental challenges that our community is ill equipped to handle. This will heighten the risk of accidents occurring in the side street neighbourhoods not designed to handle the additional traffic but also endangers pedestrians and cyclists who navigate these streets daily, this is important as there are no cycle lanes for safe cycling in Harpenden.

Accessible parking bays are already limited and converting additional bays to resident only and reducing blue badge holders to 3 hours maximum will further restrict access for disabled individuals. This not only hampers their ability to participate in community life but also places undue stress, and makes being able to navigate and engage in their surroundings safely and independently difficult on those who depend on these facilities for their everyday activities.

Accessible and affordable parking is essential for fostering a lively and inclusive community where people can easily gather, socialise, and support local initiatives. The proposed changes may lead to a decline in community participation and deter new visitors from exploring what Harpenden has to offer, ultimately harming the towns vibrant character. Also, Harpenden town centre is made up of essential activities and shopping: primary schools, doctors surgeries, library, churches, dentists, post office and supermarkets. These

I would strongly recommend that the council listens to the residents and business owners and reconsider these preposterous new proposals that haven't had any change on the issues raised in the original proposals.

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I would strongly recommend that the council listens to the residents and business owners and reconsider these preposterous new proposals that haven't had any change on the issues raised in the original proposals.

I find myself writing for the second time to vent my frustration/anger at the parking plans proposed for Harpenden to start in January 2025.

These plans have been objected to by a huge number of the population (95% of those who completed the initial consultation) , both in writing and in 2 petitions set up. How can the council ignore this? The amendments that have been made are so minor that the arguments remain the same. People will not have long enough to use the local shops, the library, doctor or dentist appointments or relax in the many cafes or pubs without having the highest charges in Hertfordshire being charged to do so. How will this entice people in to our town, or village as those of us who have grown up here still call it, to support the local businesses that make Harpenden such a pleasant place to be. My parents are elderly and rely on staying local for their daily needs but will not be able to make use of just 30 minutes free parking or indeed be able to afford the costs being asked to park for longer. They are just one example - what about parents unloading toddlers with pushchairs, doing a food shop then unloading and returning the trolley, popping to different shops for various needs, going for a dental or doctors appointment which could well be running late?? The list is endless. I, for one, will refuse to pay the charges as I already pay high council tax and the use of my local amenities should be part of this. I would prefer to have a small increase on the council tax than pay for parking each time you go to town.

Please see sense and reverse this crazy scheme. I haven't spoken to one person who believes it's a good idea and struggle to understand how this can be still proceeding despite the backlash.

I am writing to object to the proposal to remove free street parking in Harpenden.

As a Wheathampstead resident, I need to drive to Harpenden to visit local businesses as it is too far to walk. If I were to be charged for parking, I would choose to visit St Albans or Welwyn instead, with a much wider range of shops, rather than give my trade to Harpenden, resulting in a further reduction in the High Street that is already dying.

I trust that, at a time when local shops and individuals are struggling to make ends meet, the Council will reconsider this proposal.

Please note,

This scheme will seriously impede my use and enjoyment of my town as I do not have mobile banking on my phone.

I saw what St. Albans became when I lived there, scratch card parking etc. It's no longer a place to causally visit!

Please don't ruin Harpenden.

P.S. I would imagine this is going to be a massive vote loser for the Lib-Dems.

My husband and I are most concerned by the proposed changes to parking in Harpenden. It is a special town with a vibrant High Street and many independent shops which we are lucky to have. Our fear is that the proposed parking restrictions will severely hamper local trade, lead to more empty shops on the High Street and will decimate the lovely town that we currently have.

We urge you to maintain at least one hour's free parking so that local people can continue to support the shop owners with ease.

Good morning,

I am writing with my comments on the above reference number, in regards to changing the parking bays in Harpenden to paid spaces.

I run a business in St Nicholas School and have done for the past 14 years. We provide wraparound care for children attending the school and parents drop off and pick up anywhere between 7.30-6pm Monday- Friday. If the parking bays on Rothampstead avenue changed to paid spaces we would have a lot of customers who would really struggle to park in order to do the pickups and will no doubt have a detrimental effect on how our business runs. Most likely we will have multiple parents be late or be out of pocket merely for trying to pick their children up. This then means that

although our business costs are rising, we would be worried that adding a small price increase onto our current prices would be very ill received given that most would then have to be paying a parking charge too.

Not only this but I also work in the school as a 121 teaching assistant for children with special educational needs. As it stands I already have to leave once in the morning to move my car to another location to avoid getting a ticket. But having a maximum two hour stay, that costs, and then no further parking nearby that isn't paid for would really make it very difficult for myself and many other members of staff at the school. Most of us do not live in Harpenden, and there are only 6 spaces outside of the school designated for school staff. Attempts have been made by the school to try and find alternative parking for staff and none have been successful.

These new proposals would make it exceptionally difficult not only to keep my business running smoothly, but also for me to park at my paid employment.

Please take these comments as myself being wholly against these changes due to the impacts it will have.

I am emailing to make a comment on the changes to free parking in Harpenden town centre. This will impact the high street shops and will result in closures. The public that visit Harpenden shops are of the older generation and not the youth as per St Albans. Older residents need to be able to park nearer the shops. There are many services such as schools and churches where you need quick access and having to pay £2.50 1 hour and £5 for 2 hours is far too much. If you are looking at charging then keep it to a nominal amount. You are going to squeeze the life out of the local shops and this will result in the death of another high street. Do you want the local economy to suffer?

Please consider reversing what you are proposing.

I strongly object to the proposed changes to parking restrictions in Harpenden (map ref: PPB/01). I am deeply concerned about the negative impact this policy would have on both local residents and business owners.

Many local residents, especially those who live on the outskirts of Harpenden or in the surrounding countryside, rely on this free parking to shop, dine, and engage with local services. Similarly, the existing parking system is crucial for supporting local businesses, many of whom are already struggling in the current economic climate. This proposed change would create additional financial and logistical challenges for residents and businesses and result in more custom being diverted to online businesses.

Moreover, the proposed changes will exacerbate congestion on surrounding streets as drivers search for alternative free parking.

I urge the council to reconsider this proposal and preserve the current parking arrangements of at least 1 - 2 hours free parking.

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Don't use parking as an additional tax!

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Many local residents especially those who live on the outskirts of Harpenden or in surrounding countryside, rely on this free parking to shop, dine and engage in local services. I have attended a Church for 24 years in Harpenden but live outside and may have to pay to attend going forward. The existing parking system is crucial for supporting local businesses, many of whom are already struggling in the current economic climate. This proposed change would create additional financial and logistical challenges for residents and businesses and result in more custom being diverted to online businesses.

Moreover, the proposed changes will exacerbate congestion on surrounding streets as drivers search for alternative parking.

I urge the council to reconsider this proposal and preserve the current parking arrangements of at least 1-2 hours of free parking.

This is unfair on the elderly in particular who cannot deal with new parking digital systems which are hard to understand and vary from one car park to another.

The high street will eventually be on its knees if this continues.

I am writing to oppose these proposed parking charges.

I have lived in Harpenden my entire life, the centre of Harpenden is its community. Why should residents pay additionally for parking charges.

There will be a massive impact on local traders who already have to contest with high rents. By having parking charges you will reduce footfall and businesses will disappear.

Why are Harpenden proposed charges higher than other car parks in Hertfordshire. You assume we are all wealthy, which is not true.

Why are there no parking restrictions on the 5 spaces that Brayley Kia garage use exclusively, at the bottom of Townsend Lane? I have raised this twice with parking control, there are no time limitations and they swap cars in & out and leave them over weekends and public holidays. Nothing has been done in three years, since I raised this.

Why have St Albans not worked with Harpenden Town Council. You are not representing residents views.

Why did St Albans council waste money on putting ugly, dangerous and unnecessary posts up for lights, that are put out once a year.

Please listen to residents views.

I wish to strongly object the proposals of the new parking charges in Harpenden.

It will be very detrimental to our thriving High Street, and the charges proposed are extortionate and I understand the highest in Hertfordshire!

[Redacted] a resident of Harpenden for 55years

Please take this email as formal objection to your proposal to charge for parking in Harpenden town centre (ref above) as per your proposal. The public are also unable to comment online, which is not a fair public consultation.

The cost to residents of Harpenden will be excessive, we will have to pay to see the Doctor (you can't be seen within 30min nowadays)

Businesses will suffer as a result of lack of footfall just like other nearby towns that have enforced paid parking. This will result in businesses closing and a town full of empty shops, or a town full of charity shops.

Rent for businesses is extortionate, higher than most areas and the charges in your proposal are excessive. They're entirely unreasonable and due to inefficiencies within the council, residents are having to make up your shortfall.

Harpenden town Council have put forward their views, and the views of their residents which you have chosen to ignore.

I wholly object to this proposal.

The proposed parking charges in Harpenden are absolutely appalling and completely unreasonable. This is a finance raising measure by the council and nothing else.

Business owners are under enough pressure and imposing these charges will significantly reduce the number of customers. This goes against the wishes of 90% of the town's residents but the council sees fit to just plough on regardless. The consultation process has been a joke with the council making it as difficult as possible for people to express their concerns.

Please reconsider this decision and leave what is a perfectly good system well enough alone.

<p>I would like to raise concerns over the Harpenden parking proposals. The costs are extremely high. We will have to reduce the number of children activities if implemented.</p> <p>I feel the costs are disproportionately high to residents of surrounding areas and not representative of all residents wages in Harpenden</p> <p>Please reconsider implementation of the regime, as it will be highly impactful for our family and pursuit of an active, healthy lifestyle</p>
<p>I would like to object to the council's proposals to convert free limited waiting parking places in Harpenden and St. Albans to paid parking places, under section 14 of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.</p> <p>As a local resident of 12 years I see no value to local people and commercial businesses/retailers to charge for parking.</p> <p>Times are already limited to an hour which is enough to do a quick basic shop which benefits retailers. Half an hour is not enough time for this. Obviously charging for this doesn't benefit us or them.</p> <p>I do not understand why you feel you have the right to disrupt our existing parking options when we, the local residents, gain nothing and you jeopardise our already challenged retailers and local businesses.</p>
<p>I am contacting you to state that I am completely against the changes it parking regulations and charges which are planned for Harpenden.</p> <p>Harpenden has a busy high street with a reasonable mix of independent shops and major retailers.</p> <p>This is partly due to the ability to park near the High Street.</p> <p>If you want Harpenden to become a failing High Street you are certainly going to have a negative effect on traders</p>
<p>I am writing to protest about the proposed plans to introduce parking charges in Harpenden. As a resident of Gustard Wood I need to drive there for a number of amenities. The council obviously sees the area as a cash cow but shops already struggle with high rents. You will be responsible for more shop closures!</p>
<p>I want to put in my objection that this new parking regulation is seriously going to affect small businesses, they're already being hit by higher tax bills to rent their shops and now this will slow footfall into Harpenden and St Alban's.</p> <p>I am also disappointed as I will be put off from going into harpenden town for something quick. I don't want to pay £5 for an hour parking, I live 20mins walk away and I'm not walking into town for that quick shop. I will look to shop online for deliveries instead which will take the money out of our area.</p> <p>Please reconsider this parking price enforcement.</p>
<p>Charging for parking in the main shopping areas in Harpenden will cause more issues than it solves, I work in the area and drivers will park in free car parks but shop elsewhere which will be at a cost to the business who run/own the parking.</p> <p>This is clearly a way of increasing revenue for the council not to help with parking as drivers still park where it suits them. Possibly parking officers might be a better solution.</p>
<p>With regard to the new proposal for the parking bays in the centre of Harpenden - this is going to deter people from using the shops in Harpenden. The prices will force people out of town. I rarely drive into Harpenden now that the senior citizens permit (paid for in advance) has been withdrawn.</p> <p>This Council is trying to kill the High Street.</p>
<p>These amendments are absolutely tone-deaf following the 1st consultation. We have yet to see ANY reliable data to support the initial justification. The residents of Harpenden do not want, and do not support these changes. These proposals do NOTHING to address concerns.</p> <p>If this proposal is merely to offset the shocking state of St A City and District Council finances, the leadership should first look at slashing Council headcount, remove or reduce non-essential services and increasing council productivity rather than attempting to pass on further stealth taxes.</p> <p>This is nothing more than ineptitude at all levels of the council</p>
<p>I am opposed to the Harpenden High Street parking charges as I think this will be highly detrimental to the high street shopkeepers in general. Also these charges are set to be the highest in Hertfordshire which is outrageous. It will kill our town people will do online shopping instead of popping into town and parking. Part of the attraction of Harpenden is the free on street parking.</p> <p>We want free parking in Harpenden Town centre please!</p>
<p>As a parent of a child at St. Nicholas School in Harpenden I am concerned about the proposed changes to parking in Harpenden high street.</p> <p>We do not live within walking distance of school and so will be using spaces in Harpenden 5 days a week, twice each day. The proposed changes will affect us greatly. We certainly wouldn't be using Harpenden High Street for shopping anymore because we wouldn't be able to afford the parking. I think the proposed changes will actively discourage people from shopping with local, independently owned businesses and Harpenden high street will suffer as a result.</p>

Therefore, I cannot support the proposed changes and suggest you review your plans

As a local business owner we are wholly opposed to the proposed parking changes in Harpenden .

This will undoubtedly damage our business as we rely on our patients many of which have mobility issues to be able to park on the high street as near to our premises as possible I.

We have clients travelling in from far & wide bringing revenue into our town daily.

Clinical appointments last from one to three hours which will force us to reconsider if it remains viable to base our business in the town once our current lease expires.

Can SADC provide us some clarity that their plans will be amended to accommodate our patients needs. Ease of accessibility is crucial for our disabled patients.

Our high street is only going to be damaged by this .

I strongly disagree with the changes to the free parking in Harpenden. I Feel this will lead to the death of the high street, people will just drive further away where parking is free. This feels as if it is purely revenue raising and not for the benefit of the town or the people who live in it. Charges in car parks are already extortionate, removing free 1 hour parking will seriously harm the town and the businesses.

I cannot appeal highly enough that you rethink the idea and leave the parking as is currently.

I'm just e-mailing to raise my concern about the proposed changes to parking in Harpenden. The proposed parking costs are simply exorbitant and not only punitive to those with young children, but simply devastating for the business owners on the High Street. We're privileged to live in Harpenden - it is one of the few towns left with a thriving High Street (I believe it was the only High Street in the UK which didn't see any net shop closures during the pandemic). The proposal is incredibly short sighted and may raise some temporary, nominal revenue, but will prove extremely costly in the medium and long term. I'm sure residents would far sooner a marginal increase to council tax. As such, I'd firmly urge you to reconsider.

I'm objecting to 3 key revised proposals as stated on the Nov 5 document.

*The 30 minutes FREE is NOT enough time to enable short term visits for shopping and hospitality. One full hour would be acceptable.

*The start time change to 9am only helps a small number residents. It could be described as thoughtful for this group.

*The cost per hour of £2.50 has remained unchanged and is excessive given many visits involve both shopping and hospitality. This will cost an added £3.50 cost to each town centre visit. Many people have two or more visits each week so could add a weekly total of £10.50 or annually £546. Not a sum many residents would be prepared to pay with consequently fewer visits and more home deliveries with on line shopping.

THE HIGH STREET WILL SUFFER A DAMAGING LOSS OF BUSINESS.

Missing from the proposals are the details for collecting fees, the enforcements for protecting the income and how Active travel would be introduced to coincide with the launch of the new fees.

I am writing regarding your proposed changes to parking in Harpenden.

I visited Harpenden today at 1pm and noticed that multiple cars were parked on double yellow lines (without disabled badges) outside sainsburys on bowers parade and also on vaughn road. This is a common occurrence, due to the lack of regular parking enforcement in the town. I even saw a car parking on the pedestrian crossing zig zag lines outside simmons bakery.

If there was regular enforcement of double lines and of people overstaying the existing 1hr limits; these parking changes would not be necessary and the council would receive increased income. Which is what this is all about.

It is clear that enforcement/checking that people have paid for parking in the official council car parks in Harpenden is also non-existent. I've been using them for short stays for 10 years without paying and have never been ticketed.

I can only imagine how much lost revenue this equates to for all the people not paying. Instead of enforcing the existing rules, you've chosen the easy option of charging more.

I hope you will take these points into consideration.

As a family who live, not in walking distance of the town, but regular daily users of the facilities, I think SADC are about to hammer the final nail in the coffin of a very prosperous and lively town. We have to drive to access the facilities and always spend that little extra as we peruse what the lovely independent shops have to offer or stop for coffee. Now, it will be a list of what we need with no time to sit and have that coffee and a race against the clock. The post office in Kinsbourne green is no more, but have you ever not waited in a long queue in the WHS branch - this alone could take

up the majority of the time paid for or the free 30 minutes.

We know this proposal is not widely accepted by the people or retailers of Harpenden and cannot understand why you feel the need to send retailers into bankruptcy. I pity the older generation who will struggle to get their errands done in a limited time and I think SADC should reconsider and continue with the free parking.

Be proud of our town and not what you are about to see with empty shops. Why are you not listening?

I am against the parking restrictions and to remove the 1 and 2 hour free parking that is currently in place in Harpenden.

Free parking is good for the residents and for Harpenden businesses.

I would like to raise my objection to the parking charges proposed for Harpenden High street. My Main objection is that the charge of £5 for two hours is extortionate. Whilst I wouldn't object to some payment, that is so high that I would no longer go into town and restaurants and shops would therefore not get my business.

It would be seriously detriment to the shops and restaurants of the high street. Harpenden is brilliant for not having derelict, empty premises but sadly I can see this will change.

Please reconsider

This email is to object to the parking charges looking to be enforced in Harpenden from Jan 2024.

As a resident it will make me shop in out of town locations that offer free parking, and will ultimately lead to less footfall in the high street. Maybe Liberal Democrat's want to kill off the high street and do not care about what local people want.

Who has decided what the charges will be. We already pay excessive council tax and feels like the council need to learn how to manage budgets so that residents are just seen as cash cows which is how we feel.

I'm sure Victoria won't read this but people don't forget and hopefully will vote this party out, when the next opportunity arises.

Please find in this email my view on the chargeable, on street parking for Harpenden.

As a sole trader in the service industry, I believe these proposals will negatively impact my business. I have been speaking to clients at great length over this and not one person believes this plan to be a good one for Harpenden or the businesses of the town

Over the past few years, the service Industry has taken an absolute battering, most notably from the pandemic where we the last sector permitted back to work. It's taken much blood, sweat and tears to get our businesses back on track and these parking charges are just another stab in the back from the very people who should welcome a thriving high street with an array of shops and services. THE HIGH STREETS ARE DYING! Many shops lost to housing, independent traders unable to afford rents and all the banks gone! This may just be the final nail in the coffin and what a legacy to behold!

I urge you to think again regarding this short sightedness, do the right thing and leave Harpenden alone!

I want to express my deepest concerns and disapproval of the intended introduction of the parking fees for the the parking in Harpenden intended for the next year. The proposal beggers belief to have not o ly this parking measures introduced but also beating the Harpenden hardorking people with the highest fee of anywhere in Hertfordshire.

In my view, this is unacceptable way of stealth tax and rest resured, should it be introduced then I will protest with my next vote at the council election for those who are in supportof it and its introduction.

Regards

I wish to object to this proposal on the following grounds:

1) Will be unable to shop in harpenden for my elderly relatives as the cost will be too much.

2) Small businesses will be impacted. There are already empty units, these will just get worse as footfall decreases.

3) The proposed charges are the highest in the county.

4) Parking charges will increase congestion for nearby houses, as drivers look for alternative places to park.

I object to the new charges for parking on the Harpenden high street. They will cause problems for those who need to be close for easy access to a shop, put off people from shopping locally and make local businesses fail who are already struggling. The local landlords have already made it so hard for these businesses and those that have already had to stop due to increased rent. Units are already unoccupied. Indeed it is a shame the landlords can't help with any shortfall you are looking to recover.

Popping out to town for something or extra shopping after done what one needs to do or as one passes and sees a space free so decides last minute to shop will be replaced with an online click. It is already so expensive to have a leisurely shop.

As guardians of a beautiful town and community that could lead the way in how to be sustainable as a high street please protect it. Visitors can then enjoy visiting both St Albans and Harpenden and bring money to the area.

I am writing to object to the on-street charging proposals for Harpenden High Street.

I have lived in Harpenden all my life, until recently moving to Wheathampstead.

How am I to do any form of shopping within the free 30 minute timescale? And £2.50 an hour is utterly outrageous!

As a carer and a low paid charity worker, the cost to park on the High Street will be prohibitive to me.

I feel the pricing structure discriminates to a large number of the public; low paid, volunteers, elderly.

Our High Streets need all the support they can get, but the SADC seem only intent on squeezing the residents dry and clawing more from developers, who also build on places where parking is a huge necessity.

(REDACTED)

I wanted to write to let you know that this proposal is absolutely ridiculous , high streets that already struggle to compete with out of town shopping centre with free parking will be lost . I am 100% against these hugely expensive parking cost no one in there right mind will or has 2.50 for 2hrs parking .

I strongly ask you to reconsider for the sake of shop keepers and local businesses.

I live in Harpenden with my husband and two young children. We frequently go into town and support the businesses. If these parking restrictions are put in place, this will impact businesses and people may need to shop elsewhere.

I'm fully against the parking restrictions and cc'ing my husband to comment further.

Dear team

I would like to oppose the introduction of paid parking in Harpenden town centre. This will deter people coming into town and encourage them to go to out of town shopping centres with free parking, in my opinion. Having a negative impact on local small businesses.

Dear Sirs:

I strongly object to the proposal for converting free parking places in Harpenden town centre to paid spaces. Local businesses will suffer. The proposed charges are also extortionate.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to raise significant objections to these proposals

1. The parking charges quoted are the highest in Hertfordshire how can this be justified?

2. Harpenden has a lovely green space of rothampstead park people rely on this for exercise as do children in the area. Harpenden health PCN has the lowest rates for childhood obesity for children. This may well be significantly impacted by free and easy (ie no parking charges) access to local green spaces. The cost of childhood obesity on healthcare and future population health cannot be understated. These parking charges could cause a downstream impact.

3. Harpenden is a very rural town there are many houses that don't have access to pavements etc. For myself I would need to walk over a mile until I can access a pavement. With two young children this is incredibly unsafe and so public transport is not an option. You need to ensure there is safe and alternative means to access a high street before you add parking charges.

<p>4. The high street is already struggling many shops have already closed and many shops are currently vacant if you now have to pay more in parking than you do in delivery fees people will not shop locally. This is against pledges to boost the high street eg future of the high street plan. You specifically say in this that offering free parking increases footfall.</p> <p>5. The sense of community will be impacted many families socialise in the high street where a quick stop for some food shopping can then become a chance to do other errands, meet a friend, use the local library etc. This can help reduce feelings of isolation and improve mental health .The impact to a council and healthcare of mental health is significant.</p> <p>6. With many young families in harpenden this will penalise families wanting to do local shopping. 30mins free parking is frankly nothing by the time you've got little children and a pram out of the car and managed to walk to any shop.</p> <p>I hope you take this feedback on board.</p>
<p>Heavily object to charge. Also level of charges. £5 for x2 hours is excessive and will place further pressure on the already over subscribed town centre car parks Heavily object to loss of 5 car parking spaces on Leyton Road for residents. These are longstanding town centre spaces and should not be given over to new flats which should to be built without sufficient spaces. Owners bought the flats knowing what parking was available to adding more now is completely unacceptable. Penalising the majority to keep a small few happy is the incorrect decision</p>
<p>It is very distressing to hear that you are proposing to get rid of all free parking in Harpenden to paid parking. This is 100% discourage me from going to Harpenden. To have free parking to nip to do a few chores is a god send and encourages people to the town centre. If you take this away I will actively choose to do online shopping and find ways to never have to come into Harpenden</p> <p>You will cause all the businesses to fail as no one will come to town to support any shops.</p> <p>This is not something you should be doing you as a council should be encouraging people to come to town and not stay away</p>
<p>I wish to object to this proposal on the following grounds:</p> <p>1) Will be unable to shop in harpenden for my elderly relatives as the cost will be too much.</p> <p>2) small businesses will be impacted</p> <p>3) we are already being charged more than anyone else</p>
<p>Utterly disgusting that you are still considering imposing parking costs over 30 mins of parking time in Harpenden. Think again St Albans council. This will severely impact the business and communities in Harpenden. I strongly object.</p>
<p>I would like to register our opposition to the fees being charged for parking in harpenden town centre current free bays.</p> <p>The town relies on local residents shopping locally and the proposed charges will greatly Impact people choosing to shop locally as opposed to going to luton for free/ cheaper parking at the mall and out of town centres there.</p> <p>The charges proposed are astronomical and u would seriously consider whether I needed to pop into town or not. You will cause people to become isolated as they will not be able to afford these charges.</p>
<p>I have already send an opposition to this change in the past but the new proposal is still not helping our community/businesses in Harpenden.</p> <p>With the below parking charge, I bet nobody will keep coming into the town to do any shopping. I have to say the prices are too high for me to park and shop in Harpenden anymore and with a big regret, I will stop doing my weekly grocery shopping in town and will probably do somewhere like Luton or Hatfield where there is free parking available.</p> <p>- charges 9-6pm mon- sat - 30 mins £1.25, 1hr £2.50, 2hrs max £5.00</p>
<p>This is killing our community!! I am not able to do any casual window shopping or enjoy the time on highstreet with this parking price sadly. What a shame!!</p> <p>I write on behalf of myself and wife Mrs (REDACTED) to vehemently oppose the proposed changes to free parking in Harpenden.</p> <p>As residents here for over 10 years we have made a point of supporting local businesses, including retail and hospitality.</p> <p>Introducing costs to park is an appalling suggestion, and threatens to further damage a very fragile and in some cases deteriorating town centre and will directly impact the businesses that have</p>

worked so hard to try and remain viable post-Covid.

If the goal is to lessen the attractiveness of going into the town centre and instead to encourage even more people to either shop online (are Amazon helping drive decisions at SADC now too?!), visit a mall, or spend more time entertaining at home, then moving forward with this initiative is a great idea.

Otherwise, don't do it. This doesn't fix a problem, it's just another short-termist, money-spinning initiative that demonstrates that the council don't understand what's important to local residents.

I'm writing to strongly oppose the proposed changes to parking in Harpenden. The reduced parking times would significantly impact the use of the shops on our high street, and might lead to its decline and shops closing.

Harpenden is unique because of its vibrant high street and shops, despite being a small village. We come down to the high street multiple times a week to shop. An errand typically takes an hour by the time you've queued at a few shops, waited for your prescriptions etc. If this is reduced to half an hour, it would cut the shops visited in half, impacting the sales they are able to make. Instead we would probably just order items online from amazon etc, as there isn't enough time to park and browse.

The parking is important to us because despite living near the high street, I have issues walking and therefore can't easily walk into town and also carry items home with me. So I would have to shop online instead if I can't park for the for for free. Other errands like visiting the physiotherapist, dentist and hair dresser typically require parking for an hour.

Hopefully the view of Harpenden residents will be considered in this proposal, and it won't turn into a ghost town. Currently it feels like our voices are being ignored by our elected representatives.

As someone who shops in Harpenden 3-4 times a week, I am disgusted that St Albans District Council is proposing to apply time limited bays throughout Harpenden from January 2025.

Harpenden has always been a town with an eclectic mix of independent retailers/companies and well known chains. It is a destination town and meeting place for friends and families to gather and conduct business. Enjoy cultural events at the EMC, leisure facilities at Rothamsted Park, Harpenden cricket club, doctors, dentists, solicitors etc. We celebrate Harpenden for having a monthly farmer's and sustainability market, the Christmas carnival, to list a few.

People come to Harpenden because of these things. We love to shop and do business locally rather than travelling to St Albans and Luton, both of which have deteriorated over the last 10 years.

By introducing these parking charges in Harpenden, you are going to dilute this great town and people will go elsewhere, they will shop more online, rather than buying in person. You risk a lot of companies going out of business or moving elsewhere. All retailers are finding the recent changes in National Insurance and the minimum wage a concern and this will be just another nail in the coffin if they lose customers as well.

Please listen to everyone who is against these charges and do the right thing to protect our town for everyone to enjoy.

Emailing to lodge my objections to the proposed changes to charges for Harpenden town centre parking

We are local residents, have been for nearly 20 years. Just walking the High Street it is obvious to see the struggle it is for trading conditions, especially for independent retailers. I believe the introduction of parking charges and such little time for free parking will make trading in our town even more difficult for retailers.

We often would pop to Harpenden quickly for things but if we were unable to park for free, we would likely instead opt to buy online or to go to other sites where parking is free.

Whilst it is the imposition of a cost to access our local shops that is unacceptable, it is also the delays in finding the ticket machine and purchasing a ticket, when you are popping quickly into town with children in tow its an inconvenience that will put us and many others off.

This is another example of the local council not supporting local businesses and will further contribution to the retailing death of our town, as it continues to fill with charity shops & cafes.

I am responding to your revised parking plans for Harpenden. Your revisions do not solve any of the concerns raised in the first consultation. Harpenden is a thriving town full of independent shops and restaurants, which is rare in the UK in these times. Introducing parking restrictions and charges will significantly reduce the number of people visiting the high street and supporting these businesses, leading to closures, empty premises and ultimately the deterioration of the town. Currently myself and my family regularly drive to the high street (for example at lunchtime when working from home), can easily find a parking spot and spend money in a variety of businesses. Your original and amended parking charges will change behaviour by discouraging visitors and/or directing them to out of town options. Your plans will be responsible for destroying a much loved, well used and bustling town. You need to consider how your intentions to raise additional funds through parking charges will impact the longer term viability of the town and hence your future earning capacity once these businesses close due to insufficient footfall.

I am writing with respect to the consultation with respect to the proposed amended plans to introduce charges for on-street parking in Harpenden.

Firstly, the website option to complete a consultation appears to have failed or not to have been implemented. As such many people seeking to reply to this consultation are likely to have been unable to do so, as such the consultation period should be reset and republicized for the appropriate length of time to ensure that all views are properly considered by the consultation.

Further, why when a user clicks on the consultation banner on the documents are respondents sent to <https://appyway.com/>. This website promotes “Intelligent kerbside solutions helping governments... create more liveable, accessible, net-zero cities” including via their parking app. This is clearly a party with a vested interest in the outcome of the consultation. As such, it is completely inappropriate that people reviewing the documents are sent to their website and questions the fairness and validity of the consultation. As such the integrity of this consultation must be questioned.

Notwithstanding the failures in process identified above, the amended proposal do nothing to resolve the fundamental flaws in the original proposals. If implemented they will be extremely damaging for Harpenden’s town centre, the quality of life in the town and perversely result in additional and longer vehicle journeys than is currently the case.

Harpenden town centre is not a destination shopping centre, however it is used by many resident due to the convenience and in order to support local businesses. In the event that charges are implemented it is inevitable that many customers will choose to drive further than they currently do to visit destination shopping centres in Luton, St Albans (London Colney), Welwyn or further afield. The current free parking is a advantage for Harpenden High Street compared to these options today. The loss of footfall will inevitably result in more businesses failing hitting revenue at a time when they are already facing large increases in employer taxes.

The loss of additional businesses will mean that people who are currently able to walk to Harpenden High Street, will be forced to drive to other shopping centres or order online (both of which increases traffic and pollution).

I live 10 minutes walk from the High Street and very rarely drive to the High Street – however I recognise how damaging these proposals will be for the fragile economic ecosystem which exists. In recent years we have seen the loss of a dedicated Post Office and all the high street bank branches, with only the Nationwide Building Society retaining a permanent presence in the town. Already several units have remained empty for several years, as further units fall into disuse the attractiveness of the town is diminished. The failure of the retail centre of Harpenden will, of course, result in the current demand for parking places reducing and therefore the scheme will not generate the anticipated revenues.

Additionally, these proposals will disadvantage people who need to ‘drop off’ / ‘pick up’ and St Nicholas Primary School. Whilst many parents walk their children to school, some inevitably have to drive due to work or other commitments. It is predominantly women who have childcare duties and therefore these proposal discriminate against women.

The proposal will also lead to cost to those who are immobile due to age or disability who currently are able to use free parking when attending services and events at St Nicholas Church, cost which they may be unable or unwilling (due to concerns about spending money) to endure. St Nicholas Church has an active programme of services and other social activities during the week (when charges will be levied), including ‘Cornelia’s Coffee Shop’ – a volunteer run venture which provides an opportunity for people to socialise. Charges are kept to a minimum with any surplus donated to charities. The proposed car park charges will mean that people who have to drive and who currently are able to enjoy social interaction rather than isolation at home may no longer be able to participate. Disadvantaging not just these people, but others who socialise with them at these Church-led activities. The proposals will similarly impact on the High Street Methodists Church and Our Lady of Lourdes, Catholic Church.

In light of these concerns, I object to the amended proposals on the basis they will be disproportionately damaging to Harpenden residents’ interests.

I disagree with the option of having 1 30min parking session per day.

This does not consider issues such as those with mobility issues who need time to get about. Also does not factor in those with babies/pushchairs who also need time

1 hour is perfect, just needs to be monitored and enforced

Whilst i accept the the Council has made some efforts to meet the objections of the Harpenden residents by modifying their original proposals i do not accept that they are enough or even needed.

The free parking should remain as it a reason for people who aren't residents of the town to visit the town centre. The town centre is more than a shopping centre as it also wherethe residents go to visit the doctors, the dentists the funeral directors and schools. This is very different St Albans centre which is mainly used for just shopping.

St Albans Council believes that residents who shop and residents who use gp surgeries etc should use other means of coming to the town centre than by car. However this does not equate with the fact that to get the revenue they need they actually need cars to come and park. I believe that their adherence to the argument that there is an environmental argument to bringing in pay to parking is just green washing. Those who can walk and cycle potentially already do so. The Council accepts that the elderly and frail will need to use their cars but equally the council free that place a parking tax on people who may not be in the best position to pay for it if they are not working.

The whole proposal is to fix a hole in their revenue stream and so once more Harpenden is seen as the cash cow for St Albans Council fiscal incompetence. At the council meeting on Tuesday 12th

November it was noted that the council admitted that parking revenue for this financial year was behind target. No reason was given for this but perhaps their expectations are greater than what they could realistically expect to make from parking. Clearly there are greater problems to be fixed than bringing pay to park to the free parking areas in Harpenden

Like almost all Harpenden residents, I am strongly opposed to the new parking regulations proposed.

Most Harpenden residents are not rich (whatever the council may believe) and this will only encourage them to avoid going into Harpenden to shop or meet for coffee. I know the idea is to encourage people to walk (as well as to make money) but many older residents would not be able to manage this and of course it is not practical if you want to buy large or many items.

The council will be able to raise the council tax by 5% in 2025/6 and this together with some paring of it's costs should meet the shortfall.

It is interesting to note that the LibDem town council are very much against these proposals, possibly mindful of their effect on the results of next May's elections.

PLEASE RECONSIDER !

With regards to only allowing 30 minutes free parking in Harpenden.

This will stop us going to the monthly Farmers Market, Tuesday Intergenerational Choir (for dementia sufferers) at the Salvation Army and my husbands weekly OAP table tennis at St Nicholas church Hall. These in addition to our once or twice weekly shopping trips and library visits.

Half an hour would not be enough for any of these now we are in our 70s and have slowed down, and I think it unlikely that we would be able to pay to park each time. At present we have a seniors parking permit which has been very useful but we will no longer qualify as not in receipt of benefits.

Please reconsider as we feel certain the shops and clubs will lose business if implemented.

I am writing to give my objection to the proposed plan to impose additional parking restrictions in central Harpenden.

As a long term resident and mum of two, the town centre is the reason we live here!

Proximity to all sorts of shops, eateries and classes, makes it an amazing place to live.

I use the town centre on a daily basis - often multiple times per day for various activities.

The introduction of these parking charges will be a huge cost to us and I will probably have to look elsewhere for some of the things we do in town.

30 mins is enough to drop off my eldest at a class, but she needs picking up too and as I understand it, the planned changes means that this would now incur a cost?

The playgroup at the High Street Methodist is 1.5hrs long, meaning that parking for that time would be more expensive than admission.

We were at the doctors today, but even a quick apt was more than 30 mins by the time we'd parked, got there on time, doctor running late etc.

Restrictions will also limit my ability to pop in, browse and buy at many retailers as I rush to get in and out within the short time limit.

While I understand the need to raise additional funds, I think that this is a sad way to do it. It will impact the way so many residents interact with the high street and no doubt will do major damage to the independent shops and restaurants.

Also, this would just push the issue of parking further out into the residential areas. You only have to drive down Salisbury Avenue in the morning to see where the restrictions end and roads like Kirkwick Avenue fill within minutes of restrictions being lifted.

Please please reconsider your plans and keep our high street as the amazing place it is.

I am happy to discuss this with you if required.

I object to the 30 minutes fee parking as it is not long enough to go in several shops so independent traders will suffer as it allows no time for browsing. It will also adversely affect those with limited mobility. I tend to shop where it's convenient for me to do so and where the parking is free. Much as I would want to I doubt if I will support the independent shops quite as much if I have to pay for the privilege. I live over a mile from town and won't be able to do a big shop without a car.

I have recently returned from Burford a bustling little Cotswolds town with a busy and thriving High St. All on street parking is free for an hour or so and there is a large free car park. Obviously their local council is keen to support local businesses not be the artichect of their demise.

I feel very strongly about this and feel so sorry for the local businesses who have no support from yourselves.

Hopefully in another four years people will make their views known.

I object to the revised proposal on the grounds already stated. In summary the changes are unnecessary from a traffic perspective and will damage the high Street. If the council wishes to increase it's income I would rather see a higher council tax increase and not this hidden form of taxation.

Further to the revised proposals, I write to continue to express my concerns about parking being displaced to residential areas. There is insufficient room for parking on both sides of Rothamsted Avenue beyond the junction with Salisbury Avenue. Whilst the area is currently controlled to manage commuter traffic, it will be further impacted by displacement from the town centre. Please review the findings of the 2015 consultation on this and consider the adoption of double yellow lines on one side of Rothamsted Avenue.

I am writing to complain about the proposed parking changes in harpenden PPB/01.

I see that the proposal has changed slightly, for the better. However I am still extremely concerned that they will still significantly reduce the amount of people visiting the high street. People will not pay for parking if they are already out in the car, planning on nipping into town on the way somewhere else - it often takes more than 30 minutes if you need to visit more than one shop. They will just not stop in harpenden.

People will also not browse any shops if they only have a quick half an hour to park for free.

This could be devastating for the high street.

It will also cause problems for residents if people try and park away from the restrictions.

Dear Council,

Regarding the introduction of paid parking in Harpenden. Harpenden is where we live, it's not a destination. Having to pay to move around our town is simply wrong and can only have been dreamt up by people who don't live in Harpenden. Having to reverse engineer your project because you've already bought the meters shows how backward your process is.

The elected council should be representing the people that elected, this is clearly not happening for the people of Harpenden. Why can't you accept the will of the people and cancel the plans?

I've been a resident of Harpenden for over 30 years and I think the parking scheme is a good idea. We can't live in the past. Town centres need to change and the parking scheme is a step in the right direction. I would also like to see the pedestrian only access to the lower high street reinstated as it was during COVID. Surely for environmental reasons and safety we should be looking at ways to reduce cars in the centre.

I writing to complain about the proposed changes to free parking.

You state that the current parking services currently run at a loss. I don't understand how this can be it must be very inefficient, and don't know how much more money per annum you need to raise, but I don't think the current proposal will raise enough money. It would be great to see some actual figures and projections rather than a lot of words.

Secondly I don't think you have considered the impact on the town, this proposal is only going to discourage people from coming into town to spend money.

I have considered the revised proposals for parking in Harpenden.

I think that the change in free parking is still insufficient. Expecting an elderly or partially disabled person who does not qualify for a blue badge to park their car and do anything significant within a 30 minute period is unrealistic. If you are not willing to maintain the current hour of free parking then I think it should be a minimum of 45 minutes. Additionally, why do you only give someone one free session a day. That means whenever one parks one will need to have access to a device that enables you to log your parking. It just makes everything unnecessarily complex and, again, more difficult for those without easy access to a smartphone. Just keep things simple and allow free parking within a set time period on multiple occasions a day while maintaining the current rule of no return within a specified time period.

Harpenden High St is already dying. There are very few independent stores left and if you exclude hairdressers, estate agents, coffee shops and charity shops there are hardly any other stores/outlets. This proposal could well kill off the High Street. Compare it to Tring or Berkampstead which have a far more vibrant high street scene.

I am very disappointed to see the adjustments made after the "consultation process"

- Change the start of controlled hours from 08:30 to 09:00 in Harpenden.

Firstly the "change" is not a real change as the parking attendants do not arrive in Harpenden until after 9am now due to the fact they have to be transported via St Albans. So this is not a true concession it is a practical arrangement that cannot be enforced due to the parking attendants contracts. It suits SADC and no concession to Harpenden residents.

- Change two twenty-minute free parking sessions and to one 30-minute free session per day.

2x 20minutes would be very difficult to enforce and manage. The concession to One 30 minute session suits SADC not the residents of Harpenden.

- Chargeable parking periods will be made available in 30-minute sessions.

There has been a lot said about the charges but paying by phone adds an additional charge of 25p a time. So £2:50 per hour is actually £2:75. By giving the option for 1/2 hours will increase charges to Harpenden residents.

- Postpone the decision on York Road (St Albans) Limited Waiting Bays until the wider review of parking in Zone P which will be on the 25/26 workplan.

- Convert five bays in Leyton Green (Harpenden) to resident bays to relief parking stress.

This will not help parking in Harpenden these bays are used for Many businesses in the adjoining area. Dentists, restaurants, Pilates etc. some of the houses have their own drives. A better option would be to convert the smaller part 3 x cars and leave the larger parking bay for local shoppers, doctors visits, etc

I do not feel SADC have taken in the consideration of all the objections, these concessions suit the council and not the residents it is supposed to represent.

As originally proposed 1hour free parking per day anything over that should be charged for.

Please add my vote AGAINST the proposed parking restrictions. I am strongly against anything that affects our hardworking shops and traders being unable to make a living. We are lucky enough to have a vibrant village. Don't turn it into a ghost town like so many others.

Please accept this email as my opposition to the proposed parking restrictions in harpenden. A high street that thrives only on allowing access without restriction to shops, doctors, hospitality, dentists etc. The proposed given the current economic climate with burden on businesses to remain trading, creating employment and social meeting opportunities is restrictive to all.

The practical impact of reducing free parking or limited parking on the elderly or those needing to collect items, those with children, weather impact has failed to be taken into account.

Examples of payment options are lydekker park, which doesn't allow card payment, or is often broken, the Rothampstead parking is yet another payment company, frankly would deter many from going to Harpenden in favour of other locations whereby parking is free and accessible and easy

As per my opening point I strongly encourage the council to consider the implications of such a move

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the proposed parking regulations in Harpenden. The implementation of some of the highest parking fees in Hertfordshire, combined with a reduction in available parking spaces, poses a significant threat to our local businesses.

Harpenden attracts both residents and visitors largely because of its convenient and affordable parking options. Raising parking costs to such a high level is likely to discourage customers from coming to town, leading to decreased sales and the potential closure of beloved local shops and eateries. This situation could create a ripple effect, negatively impacting not only businesses but also the overall economic well-being of our community.

I respectfully urge the council to reconsider these proposals and take into account the crucial role that accessible and affordable parking plays in maintaining and supporting our local economy. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the recently proposed parking changes in Harpenden.

I completely agree with the growing sentiment among Harpenden residents that these proposals will negatively impact trade within the town centre. I can understand fully why businesses are concerned.

I urge the council to reconsider these proposals and seek alternatives that support our local economy without imposing undue burdens on both businesses and their customers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

I am writing to oppose the proposed parking changes in Harpenden due to the negative impact they will have on individuals with disabilities. The high parking fees and limited spaces will make it increasingly difficult for disabled residents to find suitable parking near essential locations such as shops, medical facilities, and community centres.

Accessible parking is crucial for ensuring that everyone in our community can navigate and engage with their surroundings safely and independently. Reducing the number of available parking spaces and increasing costs will create significant barriers for those who already face mobility challenges.

I strongly urge the council to reconsider these proposals and prioritise the needs of disabled individuals in any future parking policies.

I also consider that the proposal to decrease the current free period from 1 hour to 30 minutes is likely to increase the number of people who cruise the area waiting for someone to move as the turnover of cars will increase. This will increase the risk of accidents and decrease the air quality in the area. It is impossible to get mobile phone signal in most shops on the High Street as they tend to have narrow frontages but then extend quite a long way back from the street , so signal quality is impaired by the building fabric. This means it will be impossible to top up the parking paid for if you get stuck in a queue which happens frequently (eg in the Post Office) and will decrease the overall spend in town as trips will be shorter

It is unclear why the parking cost centre is loss-making and an explanation is warranted.

The proposed amendments are half chewed scraps which offer no real concessions.

Once again, the proposals ignore the damaging effect it will have on local businesses. The large national firms will survive but hard working local businessmen will be put at a severe detriment. The

supporting arguments say that if this is not done then other services will suffer, which is nothing more than a crude moral blackmail. On the other hand, the council could not care less about the effect on the prosperity of this town.

The proposals are an outrageous imposition on the elderly and the disabled. With no choice but to use their cars they will have to pay an outrageous amount to go shopping.

This proposal is based on the supposition that everyone in Harpenden is obscenely rich and can afford these charges. There are plenty who can't and will suffer and make Harpenden an even less diverse community.

I fear me spending time writing this is a waste of time. The introductions to these proposals have been condescending and patronising. This consultation is only taking place because the council have been forced to carry out one. I note that the documents state that it will not be voted on by the council and Councillor Campbell will do as she pleases. In any event, the meters have already been purchased which is a sure indication of intent. What a waste of money. What a dereliction to the duty of public service. Councillor Campbell will use her power to force this through. True leadership by the council is exercised by authority and not power.

We write to you to object to the amended planning proposal affecting the street parking in the centre of Harpenden where it is proposed to charge for parking (except the first 30 minutes) on all central roads.

We also note that payment will be by mobile phone. This is hugely discriminatory against the poor, those with young children and the elderly, furthermore it is very likely to be poorly implemented.

We strongly object to introduction of charging for the following reasons:

Harpenden High Street competes for retail trade with St. Albans and Luton both of which have free parking for 2 hours throughout the day at the nearby retail parks.

Harpenden's move to charging will result in a damaging decrease in shopper and visitor numbers to Harpenden Town Centre and thus a severe impact on all high street businesses, who will suffer financial loss and no doubt end up closing, with the resultant death of what is currently a vibrant town centre. The present economics of both Sainsbury and Waitrose are pretty 'knife edge'; these charges for parking will likely result in their closure.

Payment by mobile phone will affect the poor, vulnerable and especially the elderly who may not even possess a mobile phone and most certainly not be able to use it to pay for parking. (The elderly have had the cost of annual parking permits for car parks greatly increased making it unaffordable for many).

Implementation of this scheme will also have financial cost, from the infrastructure to set it up, and from the reduced footfall, causing retailer's income to reduce below a survivable level. The loss of income from the then vacant shop premises will in turn reduce business rate receipts, as will the growth of charity shops that also do not pay rates. This move is economic suicide for the town.

The loss of one major supermarket, which will be the first to go from implementation of this scheme and whose adjacent car parks are, we understand, already currently at risk, will cost upwards of 400 jobs. The loss of any one of the two supermarkets will almost certainly predicate the loss of the other. Harpenden High Street will then become solely the preserve of Charity shops, coffee shops and hairdressers.

Loss of the supermarkets would mean ALL Harpenden residents would then have to drive, if they are able, to St Albans or Luton greatly increasing the environmental and carbon footprint impact.

The scheme would considerably affect the independent living of the elderly, disabled and those with young families.

This is, at best, an astoundingly poor business case, the move is highly discriminatory and is a further environmental disaster.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised parking proposals in Harpenden.

1. Please share the impact assessment report that you must have done for such a major change to Harpenden's town centre. There may be significant impact on businesses, retailers and the community for which the council will be responsible and would surely wish to have made final decisions knowing their consequences.

2. Please share the council's report that lists the feedback given by residents in the first consultation. Otherwise how will the public know that you are taking their feedback seriously.

3. 30 minutes free parking is still too little time. 60 minutes should be free.

4. The introduction of Parking machines and road infrastructure, maintenance, management and monitoring is yet another annual cost that will increase more than inflation, reducing SADC's stretched budgets and cluttering Harpenden's street scene. This would be a very poor decision.

I attach a recent communication (below) to (REDACTED) , Assistant Director, Regulatory and Compliance, SADC, that contains further detail concerning my comments about Harpenden's new parking proposals, that you should note.

I object to this proposal in its entirety.

This proposal was not any manifesto and therefore lack democratic mandate.

It is opposed by Harpenden residents and council.

It offers no benefit to the residents of Harpenden.

The probability is that it will do irrevocable and substantial damage to the business environment of the High Street.

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed on street parking charges for Harpenden.

This will undoubtedly damage businesses.

I live in Wheathampstead and will either shop where I can in Wheathampstead as the savings by going to Harpenden will no longer apply or to Welwyn Garden City where I can park easily either on the street on at Sainsbury's if I spend £10.00

I am concerned that this consultation is flawed as I tried to complete a form on the website but was unable to do so. People have already responded to the first consultation and many will be unaware that they need to do so again.

I am also concerned about what has happened to the Senior Citizen's Parking Permit.

An elderly lady who was a holder of this permit has already transferred her chiropodist to St Albans and shopping to Aldi in Hatfield. This isn't just about money but about being able to park confidently and not worry about using machines correctly.

I wonder how much revenue will be generated by the changes. Parking wardens will need to be employed to monitor the parking and collect money from the machines. If businesses move or fail their business rates will be lost.

We are told the council needs more money to operate services.

However, the alternative is to eliminate, or at least reduce waste and inefficiency. How much monitoring is there of the productivity of each department? Is there overstaffing, could there be a job freeze on recruitment? This happens in the private sector. It may or may not be true that far more people appear to be employed to fill potholes or do other roadworks than is necessary.

Roadworkers appear to end their working day earlier than stated on the information given to those affected.

Another area of wastage is by having street lights on longer than is needed. I live in a cul de sac where the majority of the houses have outside sensor lights. The street lights go off at 1.00.a.m and on again at 5.00.am. if this is replicated across the district the unnecessary expense is enormous.

There have to be better ways of using the council tax payers' money than constantly asking for more and reducing access to the very services that generate money.

Please think more wisely about all your proposed parking restrictions.

All The parking proposals in Harpenden of which PPB/01 is one of the worst, will be a major inconvenience to the majority of harpenden residents. They are not welcome or wanted in any way whatsoever as the huge local response to the initial consultation proved conclusively.

This has escaped the notice of the council, the message from the people of harpenden was we don't want any of these parking restrictions. They're not needed or welcome.

The consequences will be people bypass local coffee shops and this will damage social activities and harm businesses that will close.

Main reason for objecting to the wider approach on harpenden parking restrictions:

Can you demonstrate that you have considered when people stop shopping business rates will not be paid when businesses shut for good? Staff will be laid off, who may need support to find housing (they may not live in harpenden) but it's still a potential impact. What's the impact of that compared to the funds these schemes will raise? Please provide me with the evidence of the full impact of this and other schemes parking schemes. Is there a full business cess that looks at the impact in harpenden and its economy? We need to not just looking at the parking revenue, but looking the whole impact across all the councils services. If there is not a full business case I object on the grounds inadequate financial evaluation has happened, so there is insufficient evidence for Cabinet and members to make a fully informed decision. Has an economic assessment been put together to show the full impact on the local economy?

It is easy to park in harpenden and this is not likely to generate a great deal of money in proportion to the council budget. The argument I heard a while ago that people can walk to save the environment is not great for our many older residents.

Large business know that giving free parking helps get customers go through the door.

It is very easy to order from Amazon, which is what people will do when they can't access shops in harpenden. They will like so many other high street shops in England just close down and be boarded up. This is not good for a community either.

I fully appreciate local government needs to balance the budget. But damaging the local economy through restricting access to shops and cafes and restaurants in a small town is probably going

to work against that in the long run.

Who can buy a coffee in 20 minutes?

Why should people pay to park to drop things off at local charity shop?

How can slow much older people rush out in 20-30 minutes?

This is not what local people voted for.

I am extremely disappointed in this having recently moved to harpenden. I previously lived in a nice town that turned into a boarded up place that people were not willing to pay to park in. Although this is not uncommon now in our country, it is also not right.

The economy is not great at the moment and people have enough inconvenience everyday without having to mess around paying to park locally.

I cannot express strongly enough how strongly this is opposed. Do not harm our local community and town.

If you are unwisely going to press ahead against the will of resident's at least give people 1.5 hours not 20 minutes as that is not time to do anything.

Yes harpenden is an affluent area all in all, but this is a very damaging way to get money from this small high street and has a big impact on our community.

I object to the revised parking restrictions proposed for Harpenden's limited waiting bays. I believe measures to charge for parking will deter shoppers to Harpenden and thus impact the retail (and other) businesses in the town centre, limiting time people have to visit multiple shops. I am not affiliated with any businesses in Harpenden. I am a resident who would like to see a thriving town centre including many independent shops.

I wish to register my objections to the proposed implementation of parking charges in Harpenden. This will have a major negative impact on the high street shops who rely on footfall for business. The introduction of charges will drive potential customers away and result in a decline in the high street.

Regards

The proposals will do severe damage to the high street / shops and community - it's not the answer the towns parking issues and revenue raised else where has just been wasted. We pay enough Council tax as it is - this is a vote losers for those who want to remain in power. We therefore object to the planning proposal.

Please find attached my objections to the current proposals for 'on street' parking charges for Harpenden.

The current proposals are over complicated and confusing.

I please ask that you reconsider the proposals and simplify as suggested in my attached document.

Many thanks.I was born in Harpenden and have seen many changes over the years with Harpenden changing from a village to a bustling town. It would appear SADC wish to change all this with their proposed charges for on street parking.

By the time one has parked for 30 minutes it does not allow time to do any one of the following jobs: collect a prescription, visit the Post Office, Building Society, etc to name but a few, as one will need to queue in most of these places. It will also not allow enough time for parents to COLLECT school children. A parent with a baby or toddler means finding a parking space getting little ones out of car into buggy, collecting school child then reversing the procedure. So, it could mean them either paying £1.25 or even £2.50 to collect their child.

For the elderly it is even more difficult. If the machines take cash how many people will have £1.25, such an arbitrary number. No one will have 25p in change. For those who have a smart phone downloading apps for many is difficult and stressful. For those who do not have a smart phone this is discrimination.

Attending a Doctor's appointment can be stressful enough. Worrying about downloading an app or having the correct cash just adds to the stress. Quite often parking machines are out of action when trying to pay with card or cash. So a trip to the Doctor, Dentist, Optician will now cost £5 (or £3.75 if you haven't used your daily free 30 minutes) just for peace of mind, in case appointments are running late, and to save the worry of getting back to the car in time. An overpayment for peace of mind? Very unfair.

These charges will encourage residents to shop more online and go elsewhere to shop. It will discourage people coming into Harpenden to visit our lovely individual shops, which we are so lucky to have, and before long these shops may also close and the community spirit of Harpenden will be lost.

As a local resident of Harpenden I wish to strongly object to the proposed introduction of parking charges in the Harpenden town centre also the limited time of 30 minutes daily parking free of charge.

With the high council taxes us residents already pay, the charge for the green bin collection etc, this parking proposal feels like a way for the council to completely fleece the local residents for as much money as possible. And the proposed parking charges are ridiculously high - highest in Hertfordshire, this is absurd!

The shops in the Harpenden are already struggling to stay in business with high rates and rents. The introduction of the parking charges will make it increasingly difficult for them to continue trading. There are many other towns like Harpenden around the country with a flourishing high street with chains and independent retailers alike. YOU as councillors need to try harder to enable our high street to stay alive.

95% of people asked in your initial consultation were strongly AGAINST the introduction of parking charges, and still you decide to push through with it.

To balance the council's budget, there may need to be cost cuttings/ salary cuttings at your end - within the council, not squeezing the residents for every penny you can possibly obtain to fund the spiralling costs at your end.

It looks like very poor business management from your side!

I would like to register my strong objection to the proposal to charge for parking in Harpenden. The shops are already struggling to survive in the current climate without putting people off shopping in the town because of parking expense. 30 minutes is not enough time to do anything. St Albans is a much bigger town and I am happy to pay for parking when I visit as there are lots of shops in the vicinity. I would not be happy to pay in Harpenden it would not be worth my while. I may as well travel to the Luton retail park and park for free as I live in Batford.

Please reconsider.

We object to the proposals:

1. Your latest survey has not been publicised properly and the Council should notify us properly. We only found out at the last minute by a whatsapp from a neighbour. We are not alone. Kindly extend the deadline, publicise the survey properly, and ensure that all Harpenden residents have an opportunity to comment. You could have emailed us, and dropped a leaflet to every house. A secret survey it seems to me.
2. The cost of the proposed parking is exorbitant.
3. It will make life all but impossible for parents, collecting and dropping off children at schools, nurseries and school buses, and reverse later in the day.
4. The whole scheme will otherwise transform Harpenden into a ghost town as wherever possible, residents will do their shopping elsewhere, and the days of lingering for a coffee and browsing in shops will be over. Radlett has adopted a similar scheme - no one shops there now. Its a fast track way to kill off our High Street.
5. For those residents living on the outer reaches of the town, they will be affected disproportionately.
6. If the Council cannot manage its finances, it should either resign, or add money to the council tax so that they don't destroy the livelihoods of those owning and running shops etc in the town, and enable residents to use the town's facilities.
7. See our comments our submitted to the previous survey.

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed on street parking charges in Harpenden.

This will have a huge impact on the retailers and car journeys will increase. Those who can't afford to pay or simply object will make drop offs of people needing to go into the village, then return home then return to collect. It will double the amount of car journeys thus increasing emissions.

Please reconsider this proposal. It will kill our High Street.

I am responding to the consultation on proposed parking charges in Harpenden

I am strongly opposed to their introduction

This will stop people using the town centre... significantly effecting local business and the character of Harpenden

I live in Harpenden and this would definitely effect how often I would come into town

I hope my rejection of the proposed plans can be registered and this proposal be shelved

I would like to register my objection to parking charges in Harpenden. It will stifle trade and shift shoppers to going online. The charges are higher than anywhere else in Harpenden and adjacent roads will suffer as people try to find free parking further away from town

I object to the current proposed parking charges in Harpenden on the following grounds:

The statement of reasons includes promoting active travel. Many people requiring parking in Harpenden travel from the wider areas of Harpenden and beyond. There are very limited safe or designated cycling routes into the town centre from North or East Harpenden and many people would not be able to cycle anyway due to the topography. The bus service is also not suitable for many people as well, it is infrequent and would cost more than the parking charges. If the proposal is to increase active travel then the council needs to put in place measures to allow that, such as the proposed cycle paths into town along the Luton Road in their plans before penalising the residents for shopping locally.

The statement of reasons also includes payment for parking enforcement as a reason, but surely this is a circular argument - we need more parking restrictions in order to pay for the parking restrictions? - has an assessment been done on having less restrictions and less enforcement?

The parking charges are also high. £5 for 2 hours? Already the car parks at Sainsbury's and Bowers Way are charging extortionate amounts for an hour or 2 in town and I would rather drive to the

large supermarket out of town when taking the kids to their clubs than pay the current fees. Also at the moment I would often pop into town and treat the kids to an ice cream or hot chocolate at one of the cafes and pick up a quick shop. If that experience is going to cost £5 in future I don't think I will be doing it very often from now on which will be a loss to the small businesses in town.

Also, please can you confirm whether you expect the payment machines to be cash / card / pay by phone. The pay by phone ones often add an addition admin charge and from recent experience are trying to overcharge customers.

I oppose these restrictions as they discriminate against the elderly, disabled and those on low incomes. Many people are struggling with the cost of living crisis, and this is just another drain on Thier limited funds.

I strongly oppose the new parking regime you want to place in Harpenden. This will be so detrimental for a vibrant high street. The shop owners are all ready struggling with high rents and rates and with the Waitrose car park being converted into premises this will be the death bell for Harpenden community. Old people will struggle, Mums with children on school drop offs and pick ups will not hang around and shop if they have to keep paying out for parking, everyone will suffer. Lib Dem should be ashamed of themselves, they are certainly not thinking of the community and as usual only thinking of themselves.

I'm afraid these proposals are bound to discourage people from shopping in Harpenden. It will certainly discourage me and the family members I've spoken to.

Half an hour will be enough time to visit one or perhaps two shops very briefly but it will require constant clock watching so there will be no more impulse purchases.

If we need to get a free ticket to get the free half hour parking, it will discourage us from going at all as instead of just parking and shopping there will be the hassle of finding a ticket machine (that works), possibly queuing and then going back to the car to display the ticket. It will become more convenient to drive somewhere else.

Personally I think it's a disaster for the small businesses in the local area.

Online shopping has changed high streets in small towns and ours is not excluded from that.

I will personally be deterred from popping to town for quick errands if I have the inconvenience of parking costs and every neighbour I have spoken to is the same. Restaurants will suffer greatly!

We moved to this town a few years ago and the fact it's small and a cute village with easy free high street parking swayed us to buy here rather than in St Albans where all our friends are.

What a terrible thing our beautiful village is to be treated as a larger city and the council charge residents the highest parking charges in the county.

It's a sad state of affairs. I feel for our residents , business owners and retirees.

Doing this only adds to the misery high streets have felt from the online shopping movement. The only benefit I see is to the councils pocket. There has to be another way!

I disagree with the modifications to the Harpenden on-street paid parking proposals

It is a grave, short-sighted mistake to impose parking charges to on-road spaces in central Harpenden.

You have a duty to ensure the continued vibrancy of town centres in your district, as well as to provide services to residents.

An increase in Council Tax would of course be unwelcome, but at least it would not damage the communities you should be serving.

You will drive shoppers outside of Harpenden to out-of-town centres where parking is FREE. The character of Harpenden will change, and this will be nigh-on impossible to reverse.

I urge you to reconsider this move. Clearly the SADC finances are troubled - this should NOT be the solution. Do not, please, be part of a decision that destroys our heritage, our life-style, our quality of life.

It is uncomfortable to change course but it is not too late to reconsider. It is right to reconsider.

The preposed imposition of parking charges on on-road parking in central Harpenden risks the continued vibrancy of our town centre and could permanently change /damage our town. It risks driving shoppers out of Harpenden to out of town locations, which will have a negative effect on the viability of our shops and businesses, which is essential for the future of our town.

Please reconsider this idea and find another solution for the plugging of the financial hole that the SADC has managed to get us into.

It is better to make a difficult u-turn now, than doubling down and making an irreversible and damaging mistake.

I have read with disappointment the lates proposals to charge for parking in Harpenden. It's clear the the St Albans council just don't understand the depth and breadth of anger around the proposals. We just don't want any charging. Tweaking proposals to justify a bad decision isn't the right approach, the plans need to be cancelled. 100% of Harpenden residents that I have spoke to are against the new parking charges; it's a tax that we don't want.

The latest structure doesn't work, £5 charge for parking in our own town is ludicrous.

I'm a Harpenden resident and I object to the proposal PPB/01.

I understand that parking in Harpenden is currently a loss-making line item. However, I strongly disagree with the proposal's suggestion that the alternative to free parking is "alternative modes of transportation." The real alternative is online shopping, such as Amazon.

The UK's high streets are already at significant risk of being eroded by private equity-backed chains and international digital services. A key draw for Harpenden is its thriving high street, which benefits from accessible parking options.

A 20-minute free parking period is wholly insufficient for customers to "pop in and out" of shops and does little to support our high street's survival.

I urge you to reconsider this approach. For example, extending the free parking period to 30 or 40 minutes would provide a more realistic lifeline to our shops. To offset this, you could increase charges for those who stay beyond this period.

Thank you for considering this crucial issue.

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed changes in parking in Harpenden.

This will have a negative effect on local businesses and great inconvenience to residents. I also am sceptical about how much money will be raised once the cost of "policing" the parking is met and collecting money from the machines.

I am over 80 and we are already being hammered by the loss of parking permits, let alone other central government policies. We are not all wealthy in this district. When will the Senior Citizens' parking permits be reinstated?

As a resident of Wheathampstead I will go elsewhere for what I need - specifically to Welwyn Garden City.

Make savings and reduce waste rather than trying to raise money by reducing access.

It's unbelievable how bullish the council are being with their proposed parking charges for Harpenden in the New Year.

We all appreciate there is a funding issue and the council need to raise revenue but this is too extreme.

It will result in less people coming to visit Harpenden and less local people coming into the town as it will become cost prohibitive. Less money will be made on parking and with a reduction in footfall more shops will close and therefore less money will be made on business rates Harpenden is a vibrant town with a great atmosphere, please don't ruin it.

I would like it to be known that I am against the proposed town centre parking charges in Harpenden and resident parking bays on Leyton Green

I am apposed to the proposed parking charges in Harpenden. As a driver of a fully electric car I fail to understand the benefit this will have on pollution and the environment . It will involve a higher turnover over of traffic in the high street. With people needing to leave town in order to reduce their expenses.

I believe the proposals made by the council will be a huge blow to many Harpenden businesses.

People will pay to visit a large town like St Albans which offers much more than a small town like Harpenden.

I work in a shop in Harpenden. I earn minimum wage. I have to drive into Harpenden. Where should I park and everyone else who works in the shops and cafes in Harpenden. As people will park further and further out either to avoid charges or because they need whole days parking.

Where are the concessions for retail staff as there are in St Albans?

I totally disagree with the introduction of parking charges in Harpenden.

I live in [Redacted] and I am strongly opposed to the introduction of paid parking in the high street and roads in the town centre. A lot of people use this short term parking to pop into a shop or collect a take away on their way through town, including elderly people. There are lots of visits that would simply not be worth it with a parking charge. This would have a hugely detrimental effect on traders in town.

I have heard that the proposal to levy charges was on environmental grounds. I do not see that argument as often people are passing through anyway and I suspect you would not exempt hybrid and electric cars from a charge.

I strongly object to the proposal of charging for on street parking in Harpenden High Street even in spite of the proposed change for 30 minutes free parking. You are not listening to us as claimed in your latest LibDem leaflet. Indeed this 'consultation' has been pure window dressing as the decision had already been made prior to the consultation period, evidenced by the purchase of parking metres prior to any consultation with residents.

Harpenden is a secondary shopping area that relies on free on street parking to create footfall for our retailers, without this shoppers will go elsewhere for a broader selection of shops, this will lead to further demise of our High Street.

It seems to me that had SADC not wasted incredible amounts of money on vanity projects like the development of Harpenden Public Hall, which has now been shelved and the property sold, then

they would be in a far better financial position than they are today.

With a population of over 30000 we should have far more autonomy from SADC who have ignored representations from our Town Council, The Harpenden Society and residents who have objected to this proposal which will be steamrolled through by SADC against strong local opposition.

Just a quick note to register an opinion that these proposals for parking charges are very sensible and long overdue. They will make access to Harpenden parking a lot easier if people only park when they really need to. It is laughable that so many rich Harpenden residents are so wound up about spending a couple of quid a couple of times a week to park their £50,000 cars.

I am writing by email because your online portal is not working.

I note that since the original consultation you have fiddled with your original proposal.

You have clearly either not heard or listened to the responses to your first consultation.

A free period of 30 minutes is meaningless if you have ever had a Doctors appointment in Harpenden or tried to post anything in the W H Smith post office with one counter open and 15 people queuing. You need a minimum of one hour.

I have googled other towns in Hertfordshire and your proposals would appear to make Harpenden the most expensive town around.

The recent Labour budget has already crippled local businesses with increases in employer NI and it would appear you want to nail down the coffin lid. Once gone these businesses will never come back.

The short answer to filling your blackhole would be to put the cost on the council tax – you should at least have a referendum to test local opinion.

I strongly object to the proposed parking charges.

Firstly, we need to support our local high street and 30 mins is not enough time to allow shoppers to peruse the shops. You want people to spend in the high street to avoid empty retail units yet you are limiting the amount of time to shop by charging extortionate parking fees.

This appears to be a money making scheme for the council seen as these proposed charges are the highest in Hertfordshire. There is no benefit to Harpenden residents or businesses quite the opposite.

Why does a town centre need more residential parking? Maybe because St Albans city council does not consider the level of parking required when they approve planning and construction of more town centre properties.

There seems no logical explanation other than using our town centre parking a cash cow.

I believe this will be a severely detrimental move for the Harpenden businesses which are already suffering.

It is not practical to use public transport (or walk) when doing a sizeable shop so it will drive people to out of town centres where free parking is provided.

I do believe that parking is becoming a major issue, not helped by the lack of traffic wardens.

Allowing drivers to park free for an hour would provide a reasonable solution but this would need to be properly policed to be effective. Anyone requiring more time than that should use the public car parks.

I am a Harpenden resident and writing to register my opposition to the proposal to end free parking in Harpenden town centre.

If the proposed charges come in at the levels being discussed, I (and I am sure many others) will cease to drive to town to use local shops. There will be more incentive to drive further afield for eg to retail parks where parking is free. This will result in longer car journeys and more pollution.

I can only imagine this will have a negative impact on local retailers who are already under pressure from high rents etc.

I would therefore urge the council to reconsider this proposal.

As a Harpenden resident for nearly 20 years I object to the charges as it will be the death of the high street impacting the many thriving businesses in the town

For those too far away to walk all it will do is act as an incentive for customers to drive to out of town shopping areas where you can park for free

St Albans used to have free parking and local business has declined ever since with many shops now closed

Wake up and smell the coffee. Give you local residents a chance to support local business

I hope common sense will prevail

I object to this proposal which will kill our High Street.
<p>I wish to register my dismay at the proposed parking charges for Harpenden. As an established retailer, of 18 years on Bowers Parade, I have been through many bleak periods in my business; the 2008 recession, rent rises and of course Covid but bringing these extortionate parking charges to Harpenden plus the business rates increase in April along with wages and N.I increases also in April will, I fear, be the final nail in the coffin, for my business.</p> <p>I have many loyal customers which I have built up over the years and with the average spend in my shop being £23 - £25, I can't see many of them happy to pay so much extra to park their car.</p> <p>The surveys and petitions which we have conducted in the shop have been unanimously against the parking charges.</p> <p>I would ask the District Council to re-consider these proposals and to consult with their electorate before inflicting these massive changes upon us.</p>
<p>I wish to comment on the proposed parking charges for on street parking in the town centre.</p> <p>Much of our decision to move to Harpenden close to 4 years ago was swayed by the nature of the high street and town centre in Harpenden. The balance of small owner run business and larger chains was encouraging in the light of so many high streets giving way to large chain supermarkets and stores.</p> <p>It was apparent that the small owner run businesses benefitted from the free on street parking which allows customers to “pop” in and out quickly. Removing that benefit is bound to have a profound effect on those businesses footfall. £5 for two hours of parking is prohibitive and there will be a sharp decline in business turnover as a result. How will these businesses survive? How soon before Harpenden high street loses its unique appeal and nature as large chains take over when small businesses fail?</p> <p>Exorbitant parking fees will not discourage cars from the high street merely discourage those with various medical, dental, admin appointments from driving, parking and using the opportunity to pop into their usual shops. Instead those patrons will be encouraged to be dropped off and picked up, merely doubling the impact on the environment from fuel driven cars.</p> <p>This proposal to impose parking fees seems ill-considered, financially motivated and short sighted. I hope that a less arduous parking fee arrangement can be considered and proposed in order to keep in mind what makes Harpenden unique and attractive to residents and visitors.</p>
<p>I wish to object to the proposed introduction of parking charges in Harpenden. This will result in a reduction in people going to Harpenden and loss of business to local businesses, some of which will fail as a result.</p> <p>It will be hard to find a space in Waitrose's car park.</p> <p>Charging for parking is very emotional to people and I personally will go to the Co -op in Southdown, Sainsbury's in Woodhall Farm near Redbourn or Aldi in Hemel to shop rather than pay in Harpenden.</p> <p>I understand the aim to encourage people to walk or cycle, but it is not practical for most people, given the weight of shopping to be carried and adverse weather etc.</p> <p>I do cycle to Harpenden for small items of shopping, but again it is not practical for larger shopping and when it is raining.</p> <p>Please reconsider this impractical and very unpopular proposal.</p>
<p>I am very disappointed that the Council has decided to charge for parking spaces on the road in central Harpenden. I fear that the retailers will suffer detrimentally as the parking charges will deter people including me from coming to Harpenden to shop. As a private resident of Harpenden I will not come to town nearly as often and will choose to shop elsewhere.</p> <p>Also I work as an Estate Agent and have to return to my office several times per day between appointments and to have to pay to park is a big cost factor for me and my employer.</p>
<p>I do not believe that the Council appreciates how strongly the public feel about the introduction of these charges and that they will lose more than they gain from it.</p>
<p>I understand that St Albans Council want to go ahead with the proposed charges in Harpenden in early January 2025. These charges will be made via mobile phones which many elderly or disabled people do not have. The streets will look unsightly with the meters in them. The cost, from being free for 2 hours ,will be £5. That's extortionate! Why don't you employ some traffic wardens to check on cars which are parked illegally so that spaces are easier to find? The traffic is frequently held up by delivery lorries parked on pavements in the town centre. Please reconsider your proposals as our independent shop owners will lose business if shoppers can't park nearby and they will go elsewhere.</p>
<p>I write to strongly oppose the proposed parking restrictions in Harpenden town centre. I am a Harpenden resident but not within a 20 minute walking distance to the town centre. Adding payment facilities for parking will strongly put me off using the town centre shops and facilities once these restrictions are in place. I will be unwilling to pay for parking in my own town and will be more likely to drive to Welwyn Garden city which is a 15 minute drive from my house, and where I know I can secure free parking closer to the town, and have a bigger choice of shopping and recreational facilities.</p>

I do not believe this paid parking policy has been well thought through. It will kill off business to Harpenden and just bring in even more vacant shop spaces.

Harpenden residents pay some of the highest council tax in the country and are left with poor potholed roads all over town, and now having to pay to park and shop/ eat in their own town centre. What a truly shameful state this is.

I urge you to think again on this decision

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>
> I urge you to think again on this decision

I do not agree with the latest proposal for parking restrictions in the vicinity of Harpenden High Street for the following reasons.

1. It will reduce visits to the High Street, damage the viability of existing retailers and businesses, leading to the decline of the High Street.

2. Medium term, it will reduce income to SADC due to additional empty retail and business units, and reduced rateable values as future rent levels lag behind inflation. Any short term income gain will be wiped out by medium term relative income reductions for the Council.

3. Visitors to the High Street who in future choose to go elsewhere, will use more fuel in their vehicles and further contribute to global warming. This appears to be in conflict with SADC climate emergency policies.

Existing parking charges and the inconvenience of purchasing parking tickets already affect my personal behavior. Eg I book doctors appointments at the Village Surgery's Wheathamstead surgery where there is free parking, although I am a Harpenden resident. I also tend to use restaurants outside the town centre at lunchtime. Additionally, I increasingly shop at Luton Retail Park, where there is free parking. Further parking restrictions will inevitably cause me to reduce my visits to Harpenden town centre.

Councillors perhaps need to find ways of producing internal cost saving efficiencies rather than creating inconvenience raising charges to their constituents

I am writing to strongly protest about your proposals to impose a tax on the residents of Harpenden in the form of parking charges, in order to fill the black hole in your finances caused by the mismanagement of budgets by the current council leadership.

The parking proposals will hit Harpenden's traders hard, potentially causing numerous businesses to go out of business and change the face of the town into one of closed shops and shutters. This will result in a net decrease in business rates probably cancelling out any parking funds raised.

Previous council management have managed to spend within their means and this proposal was cynically hidden from citizens during recent council elections.

This move clearly demonstrates the complete disregard and contempt for the people of Harpenden by St Albans council and I urge you strongly to reconsider and perhaps to start managing your budgets better.

I'm not happy over your proposed Parking charges

Hi

Im no happy , I live locally and work locally , I'm outrage by parking charges.

You let to build lots of home and did not create more parking spaces. How are you looking after people who don't have such a massive income.

My oldest neighbour used to drive to the shops and do her shopping now on a top of it she can't pay parking. It all add up she is old and she won't be able to do it in 30 minutes . If you go down to have your hair done or dentist 2 hours should be free.

I used to work at local school and people who commute from near by villages don't have spaces to park (you are refusing to give them allocated parking) now you are asking people who are on minimum cages to pay ???? You should be ashamed of yourself.

It is unrealistic all the builders in Harpenden they parked as they pleased all over pavement (daily occurrence on Milton Road , 14 car illegally park) same in town in Harpenden high street People are parked on pavement so you don't stand the chance to go with buggy.
Hire a parking officer and raise money that way .

You also building more flats at train station car park (you just need to rethink)

I strongly disagree with this proposal, it would make parking in Harpenden every expensive and impossible for me to work on a Saturday because I have to park all day in Harpenden to do my job

I object to removing the free hour parking For the following reasons It will cost money that could be better spent on filling pot holes and won't recoup enough money to cover the costs involved. It may force already struggling businesses to close . If I can't park for an hour to have breakfast then I won't go to the cafe 20mins free May not be enough time to post something if there is a queue in the shop If your concerned about current parking then put more enforcement on the hour use cameras

I am strongly against the proposal to introduce payment for parking in Harpenden.

As I feel it Will detrimental effect residents and businesses in the area.

I have been trying to submit comments on your website but the system keeps timing out.

I am strongly opposed to this proposal. As I have previously commented this does not allow enough time for running basic errands (the Post Office queue on its own would take most of the free 30 minute) which will mean people come less into the town centre with a significant detrimental impact on local businesses.

It will be particularly difficult for my elderly neighbours who rely on town centre parking both for provisions and for a feeling of community.

There is huge strength of feeling amongst all of my local contacts that this proposal should not be progressed which I hope you will take on board.

I am writing to object strongly to the proposed changes to parking charges from free to paid parking in Harpenden. I believe this will negatively affect local business trade and reduce footfall and result in further business closures in Harpenden centre. This will then lead to a decline in what Harpenden can offer its residents in terms of the variety of shops and the feeling of the town.

I'm afraid these proposals are bound to discourage people from shopping in Harpenden. It will certainly discourage me and the family members I've spoken to.

Half an hour will be enough time to visit one or perhaps two shops very briefly but it will require constant clock watching so there will be no more impulse purchases.

If we need to get a free ticket to get the free half hour parking, it will discourage us from going at all as instead of just parking and shopping there will be the hassle of finding a ticket machine (that works), possibly queuing and then going back to the car to display the ticket. It will become more convenient to drive somewhere else.

The latest offering from the Council does nothing to address the concerns of local residents and businesses, all of whom will be adversely affected by the proposed car parking charges, which I believe will be the highest in Hertfordshire.

Our original response is therefore still applicable..... your electorate overwhelmingly reject your proposals which are considered both draconian and totally unreasonable.

I write to complain about the proposed changes to parking in Harpenden.

As a resident, I truly believe this will have a detrimental impact on Harpenden town centre and life in Harpenden in general.

Parking charges at the extortionate proposed levels will deter people from "popping into town" to pick something up quickly. It will also make it difficult to have any appointment which goes on longer than about 20 mins. This will affect many local businesses, especially hairdressers, opticians, dentists etc.

Living in Harpenden we pay high rates of council tax and are happy to do this to live in an amazing place with local shops and businesses. Not everyone has the ability (or time) to walk into town and a quick shop is often necessary.

We do not wish to visit shops at out of town retail parks.

Our independent retailers and businesses are what makes our town special, and these will undoubtedly be affected by these proposed parking restrictions.

Should businesses have to close this could force the high street and surrounding roads to become empty and boarded up with no charm whatsoever.

Please reconsider this.

I am opposed to any street parking systems for two main reasons

1) the Harpenden High Street struggles to offer a range of shops largely because of excessive rental charges but parking charges will discourage people from popping into town for things esp from

the likes of Batford and Southdown.

2) charges mean we will have to suffer the usual poor quality machines which don't work or apps which are a pain to use all to allow parking companies to screw money out of us. See BBC news from Derby for today's example.

I have submitted a response to the consultation on your consultation software however it is unclear as to if it went through. For the avoidance of doubt please find below the Town Council response to the consultation:

The Town Council:

Strongly objects to the modified proposals given the significant concerns regarding the impact on Local Businesses and the wider community.

Strongly objects to the introduction of any paid parking in the High Street.

Strongly recommends SADC deliver their four needs set out in the SoR through a) an alternative proposal of allowing 1hr free parking, with no return within 1 hour, and no option to remain longer than 1hr and b) through a more rigorous approach to enforcement.

I have considered the further revised proposals for parking in Harpenden.

As I expressed with regard to the previous proposals, I still think that the change in free parking is insufficient. Expecting an elderly or partially disabled person who does not qualify for a blue badge to park their car and do anything significant within a 30 minute period is unrealistic. If you are not willing to maintain the current hour of free parking then I think it should be a minimum of 45 minutes. The current system should also be maintained. You should be able to park for 45 minutes free on more than one occasion during the restricted period provided that you do not return within 2 hours.

The principal reason for objecting to the proposals is what I believe will be the significant economic effects on Harpenden High St. People will be discouraged from shopping. Currently, if I go into town to do a food shop I might also pop out to another shop or go for a coffee. In future I just would not do so. The High St is already dying. There are very few independent stores left and if you exclude hairdressers, estate agents, coffee shops and charity shops there are hardly any other stores/outlets. This proposal could well kill off the High Street. Compare it to Tring or Berkampstead which have a far more vibrant high street scene.

Please think again, your proposals are likely to have significant knock on effects that will seriously hurt businesses and cause the High St to become just like those of many other towns - dominated by branded stores only.

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed parking restrictions set to be introduced in January. These measures will seriously harm the viability of our town, impacting small businesses, schools, and employees alike. The decision appears short-sighted and disconnected from the reality of how Harpenden functions on a daily basis.

It is clear that those responsible for this proposal have not fully considered the broader implications or spent time observing the needs of local residents and businesses. Furthermore, the lengthy report produced to justify these changes feels like an unnecessary and costly exercise, designed to deter genuine engagement. Why must such straightforward issues always be made more complicated?

The solution is simple: introduce two hours of free parking across the town. This would encourage visitors, support businesses, and keep the town thriving. Ultimately, the question is whether the council want people to come to Harpenden or not.

I urge you to reconsider these proposals and adopt a more practical, community-focused approach.

After refusing to listen to the people of Harpenden, you are imposing on street parking charges.

I feel much of this is due to your mismanagement of funds in St Albans.

If you insist on forcing this on us please make the free on street parking at least one hour, to help the retail sector or I feel more shops will close and therefore less revenue for the council.

I find it astonishing and insulting that despite my responding to original consultation I have not been notified of changes or ability to make representations I wholeheartedly disagree with amended proposals and please provide me with information to address this through appropriate legal channel

Just had a look through the proposals for free to paid parking in Harpenden and am worried about the adverse effects that you may cause. Personally I don't drive, but working in Harpenden I can foresee a drastic drop in shoppers and customers enjoying all that the high street offers. You will kill off a lot of what makes Harpenden a thriving place to visit.

On your "Statement Of Reasons For Making The Order":

1. Encourage Active Travel:

This is so insulting to the people of Harpenden. We do not need a caregiver telling us what is good for us. Besides the politics of the State dictating our lives, many people in Harpenden (and you can check on the census) would be incapable of cycling or walking far. Taking away their independence and forcing them to use buses increases their risk of injury (walking to and from bus stops) and ability to get around before and after visiting the centre.

2. Increased Enforcement:

Monitoring and enforcement only supports more monitoring and enforcement. The current system is already fair and the streets are some of the safest in the UK.

3: Greater Turnover Of Premium Places:

This is a falsehood. Currently there is a limit of 1 hour free parking with no ability to park for longer. The new system would allow a car to be parked for up to 2 hours (or is it 2½ with the free ½ hour). Confirming that this is just a way of penalising people for parking in Harpenden and creating a cashcow for the council. The availability for spaces could in effect be halved as ½ hour is not enough time to do much. I can see driver's paying to stay longer "just in case", giving fewer people the ability to park and causing a drop in the number of visitors.

4. 20-Minute Free Sessions:

I believe this has now been changed to 30 minutes, but it is still woefully short. I honestly don't understand why the current 1 hour free limit needs changing. Unless of course it's just a way for you to get extra money, but be warned that the adverse effect on the centre for shopping and meeting will forever be changed.

Please reconsider these changes. The charities, coffee shops and other retailers rely on the flow of happy customers enjoying their visits to Harpenden.

Two initial comments.

Bullet point 2 has the word "and" which doesn't make sense. Is something missing?

Bullet point 5 has the word "relief" which should of course be "relieve".

Shoddy and amateurish piece of work from the Council.

However, most importantly, you have completely missed the point. The residents/tax payers/voting public of Harpenden are not looking for tinkering at the edges. We want the whole sorry scheme to be abandoned. It takes away our freedom to drive into our town and park at liberty on street for whatever reason. If we want to use paid car parks, there are plenty to choose from, and they are used when appropriate. But we also expect to have the ability to drive into our town and park on street within the current conditions as and when we wish to. This is a privilege of living in Harpenden that has always been enjoyed by the residents and which we vehemently oppose being taken away.

These proposed changes are mere tinkering with the original basically flawed scheme which, as I said in my response to the original consultation, will do nothing to support or encourage town centre businesses - one of the council's key objectives. When implemented it is more likely to lead to a decline of the High Street as people shop elsewhere, rather than positive development. I say "when" because it is clear that the expensive consultation re parking in Harpenden was a sham, the decision already made!

I am totally against these new charges to parking in Harpenden.

At the moment, people are able to pop to the local shop as and when they want. This makes the town a thriving bustling place, giving local independent shops the chance to run a business.

What with all the extra costs that the new government have brought in businesses are already struggling. If people have to pay to park in the town they will go elsewhere.

You see this in St Albans where so many people are put off going there to shop due to all the parking restrictions.

It is so unfair that Harpenden has now been targeted for these restrictions and at such a high cost.

Everyone is struggling with the cost of living and this will ruin our high street.

Please think again before you make Harpenden town a place no one will want to go to.

I am writing to formally raise a concern regarding the proposed parking charges in Harpenden, which I believe to be unfair and disproportionate for the town. I have an office in the town centre and visitors to my place of work park using the current free parking facilities. Introducing charges will have a significant impact due to the high charges, which have been highlighted as the

highest per hour rate in Hertfordshire.

The availability of alternative parking options within a reasonable distance would be limited or non-existent. This situation has resulted in increased financial burden on those who wish to access local businesses and amenities.

You may not agree, but this will have a huge impact on our very unique and much-loved high street, that is filled with smaller traders. These traders will suffer loss in trade and the high street will either die off and be filled with empty shops or be filled with big chains, which shoppers can, and will, go elsewhere for (normally with free parking).

This has been shown time and time again in other towns and cities throughout the UK.

I kindly request that you review the currently proposed parking charges. It would be greatly appreciated if parking could be revised to better reflect the needs of the community, while also supporting local businesses and encouraging visitors to the area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope that a fair resolution can be reached.

I am writing in relation to the proposed parking charges.

I work in a business that supports 20-30 small businesses everyday and these charges would be crippling for our businesses and all the others on the high street.

People pop into town to pick something up and that footfall supports the local shops/restaurants and keeps the high street going. It is a small town and elderly people often have a once a week routine to do their shopping at various shops on a regular basis. Adding these charges will mean they might go elsewhere.

The charges are ridiculous - £5 for 2 hours? It is daylight robbery and will have such a huge impact on our gorgeous high street. All you will do is push people to the bit out of town retail centres where parking is free. How on earth does that benefit our town?

There doesn't seem to be much evidence that you listened to the last lot of emails and concerns from local residents.

It is sad, and I for one dread the impact it will have on where we live.

I hope you get many objections and reconsider...AGAIN.

I am writing to object to the car parking proposals being made to Harpenden whereby the free parking will be removed.

As a resident, I feel strongly that it will absolutely finish off an already struggling high street if you were to begin charging £5 for 2 hours. It will do nothing to stop the huge volume of SUVs piling into the train station car park on a daily basis, nor those travelling further afield for school runs, nor wildly change anything on the environmental front; indeed you may even start to encourage more journeys as people will drop family members into Harpenden and then go back to their homes, only to return to collect, rather than perhaps staying on the high street and having a coffee whilst they wait. I don't believe driving into Harpenden to go shopping/have lunch/do exercise is the issue when it comes to environment in Harpenden: It's much wider than that and the fact the town centre is the main way you can drive from one end to the other, plus it's a huge population for the town of its size. Which I add, you're planning to add to.

I am a pop-up retailer and have used the space opposite Waitrose to sell things. The success of that retail space depends entirely on people being free to drop in and not be limited by expensive parking. So I would fear that being able to continue successfully for lots of small businesses.

Equally it will affect those taking part in sporting activities. It means now that to take my daughter to football on a Saturday morning in Harpenden, we will have to pay for parking and that may discourage people from taking their children to do exercise altogether, or indeed, themselves. To me this is so important! We live right at the edge of Harpenden so for us walking with two small children would be wonderful, but at the moment it is extremely unrealistic. It's about a 45 min walk both ways if we take the children.

So, whilst I agree there are too many cars on the road all over the UK, until we have adequate public transport alternatives (they seem quite poor and very irregular to me here), I feel very strongly that starting to charge people to park around the high street does not solve the problem, and worse still, will have a huge knock on effect on the whole community who are very proud of the high street we still have standing.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed parking charges set to be implemented in Harpenden starting January 2025. While I understand the need for local authorities to generate revenue, the current proposal, which includes charges of £1.25 for 30 minutes, £2.50 for one hour, and £5.00 for two hours, represents the highest parking fees in Hertfordshire and poses a significant threat to our community.

The introduction of these charges will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on the town's vibrant community spirit. Many residents, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, rely on accessible parking to visit local shops, services, and community facilities. The proposed fees will create a financial burden that many cannot afford, effectively discouraging them from visiting the town. This could lead to a decline in foot traffic for local businesses, which are already facing numerous challenges in the current economic climate.

Moreover, the provision of only 30 minutes of free parking per day is insufficient for those who may need to spend more time in town for essential errands or social visits. This limited timeframe does not reflect the needs of our community, where many residents may require longer visits to access services or support.

I urge the council to reconsider these proposals and explore alternative solutions that would not impose such high charges on our community. Perhaps a more balanced approach could be taken, such as lower parking fees or increased free parking time, which would encourage residents and visitors to support our local businesses without placing undue financial strain on those who are

most vulnerable.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the proposed parking charges in Harpenden. I believe that our town should remain a welcoming and accessible place for all residents, regardless of their financial situation. I hope that the council will take these concerns into account and work towards a solution that prioritizes the well-being of our community.

I am a Harpenden resident who uses the town centre a lot and reject to this planned proposal because it makes life so much more difficult for everyone to get around Harpenden and penalises people who need to park in town whilst they do a bit of shopping. This is ruin the Harpenden economy and people will just order online. There is nothing wrong with the current state of parking and I propose it stays how it is.

I am writing to oppose to the suggestions made for St Albans City council for the control of parking - reference PPB/01

'St Albans City and District Council proposes to make modifications to the above proposal to convert free limited waiting parking places in Harpenden and St. Albans to paid parking places, under section 14 of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.'

I currently live adjacent to the high street above (REDACTED) on (REDACTED). We currently do not have any parking considering we are residents which makes it extremely difficult as it is for friends and family to come and visit us. I cannot even buy a car because we currently cannot park it anywhere and can't afford the fines. There is very limited parking as it is you're going to make it significantly harder for us by doing this.

I understand new rules need to be put in place to make the roads easier for people coming to visit for the shops and restaurants who do not live here and for the high street and I agree they should be made to pay, however I do not think that the residents in this area should have to pay and we have not been considered in this new proposal.

If the proposal were to go ahead then I would suggest making it fair to the residents who live here by maybe allowing parking permits for residents to be used at the Harpenden Halls car park? As this has been empty for the past year and a half since I have lived here.

Even a slight change such as this would make a huge difference to the people living off the high street.

Or if I could suggest parking permits being made to be used for all or part of arden grove only? I agree people shouldn't be parking here who aren't from the area but for people who live here such as myself it's disgusting - this new time allocation does not even allow time for somebody who is visiting me to pop in for a cup of tea, or if they do come in for a cup of tea they will be charged £1.25! This just gives added stress to people visiting loved ones.

I also feel that Harpenden is busy as it is at times so this is only going to lead to an overflow in the station car park where you would get better value for your money.

I also feel that if this were to go ahead then the public transport system will need to be improved. For example, at the moment I have family who live in Welwyn who can drive to mine within 20 minutes - they will not want to be paying to visit me as I live here so to get the train for them would be even more difficult as there is no direct line to here meaning they have to go into London to get back out again.

I personally feel that this is just not reasonable. Yes we do live in a well established area however that does not mean that we are all living the life of luxury, I have had to compromise to save money by living above the restaurant and the cost of living has proved to be difficult for me so by incorporating this it will make my day to day living so much harder.

I understand and agree that people who do not live here should be paying to stay however I please just ask that you try and consider the people who do live here and how that will affect them.

I would like to object to the proposed paid parking places in Harpenden.

Charging for parking will be detrimental to businesses in the area and will effectively destroy the high street.

Successive governments and local authorities take actions that impact negatively on local businesses and then have to take action to 'save the high street'. Please stop this destructive cycle.

We have a vibrant high street which supports a wonderful community. Please let's keep it that way.

Harpenden in particular is almost impossible to park in already and with the conversion of the parking lot by the leisure centre to paid parking, there is virtually nowhere to park without paying. Harpenden needs substantially more parking. With the relatively unfettered population growth allowed over the past 15 years the council has been derelict in not increasing investment in basic amenities, which includes parking.

I would like to see a volume based study comparing the traffic 10 and 15 years ago with today and modelling how much more parking is required.

In this study I would also urge the council to consider how much of the population requires free parking (such as those with disability, OAPs etc) and ensure that there is sufficient parking both for these populations at a free rate, and others.

I totally disagree to the paid parking changes proposed for Harpenden Town Centre.

As a long term local resident this will severely impact my use of Harpenden Centre - from supporting local shops and initiatives, to meeting friends locally for health and well-being, to use of the supermarkets and the ability for my daughter to continue her volunteer work at (REDACTED) and for her mental health and wellbeing through matches for Harpenden Town football club.

I can not afford the proposed parking fees and will not be able to visit the Town Centre. I pay a significant sum in Council Tax and additional waste collection and see absolutely no value for this payment.

The suggestion to remove parking spaces and re-allocate to resident parking is ridiculous- there are insufficient spaces currently and the rate of building new developments and increasing (unused) disabled parking spaces is exacerbating the issue. Residents and planning should consider availability of parking when purchasing / developing properties.

May I urge that you reconsider this proposal before all local opportunities are lost and a thriving community is destroyed.

I have the following comments on the St Albans City and District Council proposal to make modifications to the proposal to convert free limited waiting parking places in Harpenden and St. Albans to paid parking places, under section 14 of The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

Comments on the proposed parking charges in Harpenden

This quote from the SADC:

"The main objection to the changes, raised in the consultation, was concern that they could have an adverse effect on businesses and the vibrancy of the high street, but we have seen no evidence to support this. In fact, a quicker turnover at the bays, brought about by charging, could be helpful to businesses."

Clearly, they have not looked hard enough. I found a detailed report from America on this very subject (the link is below), called "The Economics of Transportation, 2014", published by Elsevier, and this was the conclusion:

The results of this study suggest that parking meters with demand-invariant fees are a poor tool for managing access to popular locations. There is no empirical evidence to support the claim that fees benefit nearby businesses by increasing customer traffic. In non-saturated periods, the fees are not needed to ration parking spaces, and the evidence shows that Belmont Shore's small meter fees decreased customer traffic by a significant amount. The magnitude of the effect was a 25–30% reduction in customer traffic.

Do parking fees affect retail sales? Evidence from Starbucks - ScienceDirect

Do parking fees affect retail sales? Evidence from Starbucks

Parking meters are a common feature of urban areas, yet their economic impacts are not well understood. Local governments use meters to raise revenue ...

www.sciencedirect.com Obviously, every town is different and their circumstances are different, and there are other research reports on parking that have different conclusions, but who is to say which one is right for Harpenden? The SADC won't know and they will just be taking a gamble and a massive risk as to whether the local shops would be badly affected and on the livelihoods of a number of people.

The changes to the original proposal to charge for on-street parking in Harpenden Town Centre provide very marginal modifications to a policy which is ill-conceived, under-researched and quite wrong for a town like Harpenden. The modifications are actually worse than the original proposals.

Explaining the decision to propose paid-for on-street parking in Harpenden, Cllr Campbell said the council's on-street parking service had a total deficit of £1.5m over the last five years. We need evidence and an independent audit, and the figure needs to be broken down. How much of that relates to Harpenden? SADC appears to be adopting a "one size fits all approach" which does not reflect the key differences between St Albans City Centre and Harpenden Town Centre.

Cllr Campbell continued: "The council has a stark choice; find ways to make services pay for themselves and become sustainable, or ignore the gaps, let them pile up, and risk not being able to present a balanced budget and falling into effective bankruptcy". I was under the impression that councils cannot use parking charges as a means of revenue, only to maintain parking facilities, and I believe there is case law on this. This is very obviously not the case, according to the council sources. Nobody on the SADC is able, or willing, to answer the question of why it is necessary.

SADC say that parking makes a loss but cannot prove this. They charge enough in their proper council-owned car parks. The accounts are impenetrable. Tell us the truth with accurate information that has been independently checked and verified.

The council's budget for 2024/25 suggested parking charges would bring in additional income of £185,000 for 2024/25 and £268,000 in future years which is a drop in the ocean compared to the council tax revenue and council budgets and also when compared to the £721,000 which was wasted on the Harpenden Public Halls aborted development! Hardly an amount to cause bankruptcy - such hyperbole!

Unlike larger towns and cities, Harpenden is not a destination town, it is a community and the bulk of the users of its town centre infrastructure are residents of the town, albeit most beyond walking distance: it is their "local" centre. The majority of retail, hospitality, personal care and even primary education is within the proposed parking charges area and residents have few, if any, alternatives.

It is questionable as to whether an appropriate consultation process has been carried out given the communications put out and timeline inconsistencies.

The lack of enforcement in Harpenden of current parking bay regulations is lamentable, it is a "missed opportunity" for bringing in revenue. There is money just waiting to be collected in parking fines for people who outstay the current restrictions and those who park illegally. There does not seem to be any traffic wardens anywhere in Harpenden - why not? How much revenue has been missed over the years? It is my understanding that the traffic wardens who are in the employ of the SADC are given instructions as to which areas and zones to patrol by someone at the SADC, so the responsibility lies fully with the SADC.

As a long term resident of Harpenden, I object to the proposals to charge for parking in the town centre. Harpenden's high street is relatively vibrant, particularly in comparison to similar sized towns elsewhere. I believe that vibrancy will be severely impacted by charging for parking. It will dissuade both residents and visitors from shopping in the town.

I echo the views of my wife.

Firstly, the small, independent businesses are a big part of the wider appeal of Harpenden. If the parking charges were to detract people from shopping in Harpenden then it would ruin a thriving, local community and lead to unsightly empty units and a lack of council tax payments from said units, possibly creating a problem with squatters.

There are also many elderly people who live in Harpenden who rely on their cars due to the lack of a regular bus service, and if the parking charges were approved then their vulnerability would be increased as they would not be willing to drive into Harpenden to pay an unfair amount of money to park in the centre of Town

I sincerely hope that the Council sees sense and does not implement these parking charges for the greater good of our local community

I am writing as a Harpenden town resident to register my strong objection to proposal PPB/01

I have reviewed the latest amendments to the above proposal re on-street parking in Harpenden.

These appear to be only minor "tweaks" to the original proposal. As such I still find them unacceptable. I document my comments below.

Clearly the scale of objection to the original proposal was huge. I feel sure that those who objected before will still hold the same views.

In the principle of consultation, given the resistance, the council should accept that this is not acceptable and shelve the proposal. This, only slightly amended, version is in no way a reflection of Harpenden residents' views.

In addition, it has been claimed by the council that parking has made losses of around £1.5m over the last 4 years. I now read that this is not a loss at all but a "missed opportunity" to implement higher parking charges earlier! This was a very misleading statement made to make a case.

Please listen to what the local community and traders want and not what the councillors think is good for us.

I reiterate my initial objections below.

- This would reduce both Harpenden resident's easy access to the town centre and the scale of proposed parking fees would also deter visitors. It would impact badly on businesses in the High Street Harpenden area. It would divert trade to other towns where parking is more freely available or to out of town shopping parks. Fewer customers would lead to business closures. These are businesses already challenged with high business rates and rent, fuel costs and the growth of on line shopping. Business closures and empty premises leads to a less vibrant town leads to more business closures – a vicious circle - isolated residents and zero community spirit.
- We already have to pay higher parking costs in our car parks compared to other areas. This would be an additional cost to residents and would be detrimental to the town centre.
- In what way does this proposal support a "Vibrant High Street" and "Thriving businesses" both of which the Council claim are their objectives?
- Has this been considered in the whole? If businesses suffer, which undoubtedly they will, and have to close this will lead to more empty premises and a reduction in income from business rates.
- The Council hopes that this proposal will "promote active travel". A not insignificant number of the town's population are elderly and have mobility issues. They need easy access to Harpenden's centre and its facilities. They cannot walk a few miles into town and back - or ride a bicycle!
- The concept of parking ticket machines will be a deterrent to many of the elderly who do not have smartphones and are not "tech savvy"
- 30 minutes of free parking is barely enough to achieve even a short task. This would not be sufficient to either queue at the Post Office or Pharmacy, pop into the supermarket for a quick top-up shop or select a book at the library. A minimum of 1 hour free parking on all parking bays is essential.
- Charging to park for anything above 30 minutes would impact greatest on those on lower and fixed incomes, the less well off.
- If you believe that there are some who are abusing the current system then why not police it properly?
- This would increase congestion further away from the High Street as drivers circle looking for available free parking.

I would like to object to the parking charging being suggested for Harpenden High Street. I believe that this ill considered move would contribute to the degradation of the High Street. This is especially retrograde given the fact that the High Street is still struggling to recover from Covid and the various increases in taxes placed upon the small businesses that reside there.

I noted in June 2024 the liberal Democrats claim to be wanting to put communities in High Street first this does not seem to be true in action as evidenced by this proposal. I would therefore ask that this proposal be reconsidered and dismissed.

I strongly object to the proposal to alter the parking arrangements in Harpenden.

This will only have the effect of moving people from high street retail to out of town retail as has been seen in St Albans since the St Peters Street parking was altered.

This will severely impact the struggling high street retailers and inevitably lead to more vacant units.

The likely decrease in income will inevitably offset any gains from this frankly ludicrous scheme.

There will be more vehicle journeys and therefore Co2 as people venture further afield to shop where the parking is less onerous. This will also reduce any revenues gained from this proposal over time.

I have lived on the High street for 20 years and rarely see any traffic wardens compared to previous years, perhaps proper enforcement of the current restrictions could garner more of the required funds?

Please don't kill our high street, especially during the current economic climate. It is suffering enough with the banks and other businesses closing. It needs support and this is the direct opposite of that.

If these businesses continue to close the residents who are within walking distance of the high street will have no viable option but to travel elsewhere by vehicle or delivery by vehicle.

Many elderly members of this community rely on the High street, please don't destroy this valuable resource in the name of a quick buck.

You are leaving yourselves open to being called a kleptocracy.

I'm dismayed and upset by the proposed Parking Charges in Harpenden and strongly oppose this for the following reasons:

1. I have CFS/ME which causes extreme fatigue and I am also the sole carer for my 93 year old mother who has many health problems. Because of my fatigue, I have to use the car to go into Harpenden and do not wish to have the additional stress and exacerbated fatigue caused by having to pay for parking. I am really worried about this.
2. This will badly affect small businesses who rely on people popping into Harpenden. Many would go out of business. This would be an unbelievable loss for them personally and a great loss for Harpenden itself.
3. I have always hugely valued the relaxed 'village' atmosphere of Harpenden where, unlike St Albans, one doesn't have to find a meter or get on the phone to pay for parking. The proposed Parking Charges would hugely change the special feel of Harpenden.

Please, please can you reconsider this and find a better way obtaining money for the council,

I think you have missed the point on this.

Harpenden is a thriving place and popping to town, using the shops and having a coffee is key and you cannot do that in 30 minutes. This will result in shops closing and the council loosing out on business rates and the town turning into other failing towns.

Please don't destroy Harpenden, it will not benefit anyone.

Can I suggest that the free parking is set to 1 hour per day and that for me would be a reasonable compromise.

I strongly object to the imposition of parking charges in Harpenden town centre (High Street).

Our local retail businesses are already struggling with the increasing use of online shopping, high business rates and now higher National Insurance contributions, as evidenced by the number of empty premises in the town centre. 30 minutes free parking is simply not enough for anyone do a few errands and return to their car in time to avoid penalty charges. These proposals will discourage people from using our high street shops and restaurants and accelerate the deterioration of our town centre.

Please do not go ahead with these ill-thought out proposals which will have significant unintended consequences.

Will there be pensioner's parking at a cost for three hours free parking as suggested some time ago? I cannot possibly do my week's shopping in half an hour but am willing to pay a yearly fee for it.

This appears to be a complete sham consultation.

Firstly according to the Herts Ad it started yesterday and yet I am only receiving this today.

Secondly, the link is to a page with no obvious details around this consultation.
Thirdly, less than two business days to consult with residents is completely unacceptable.
Fourthly still no explanation has been provided as to why/where parking services in Harpenden are making a loss.

Please amend the landing page to make it clearer and come back to me otherwise I will be complaining to the local government ombudsman.