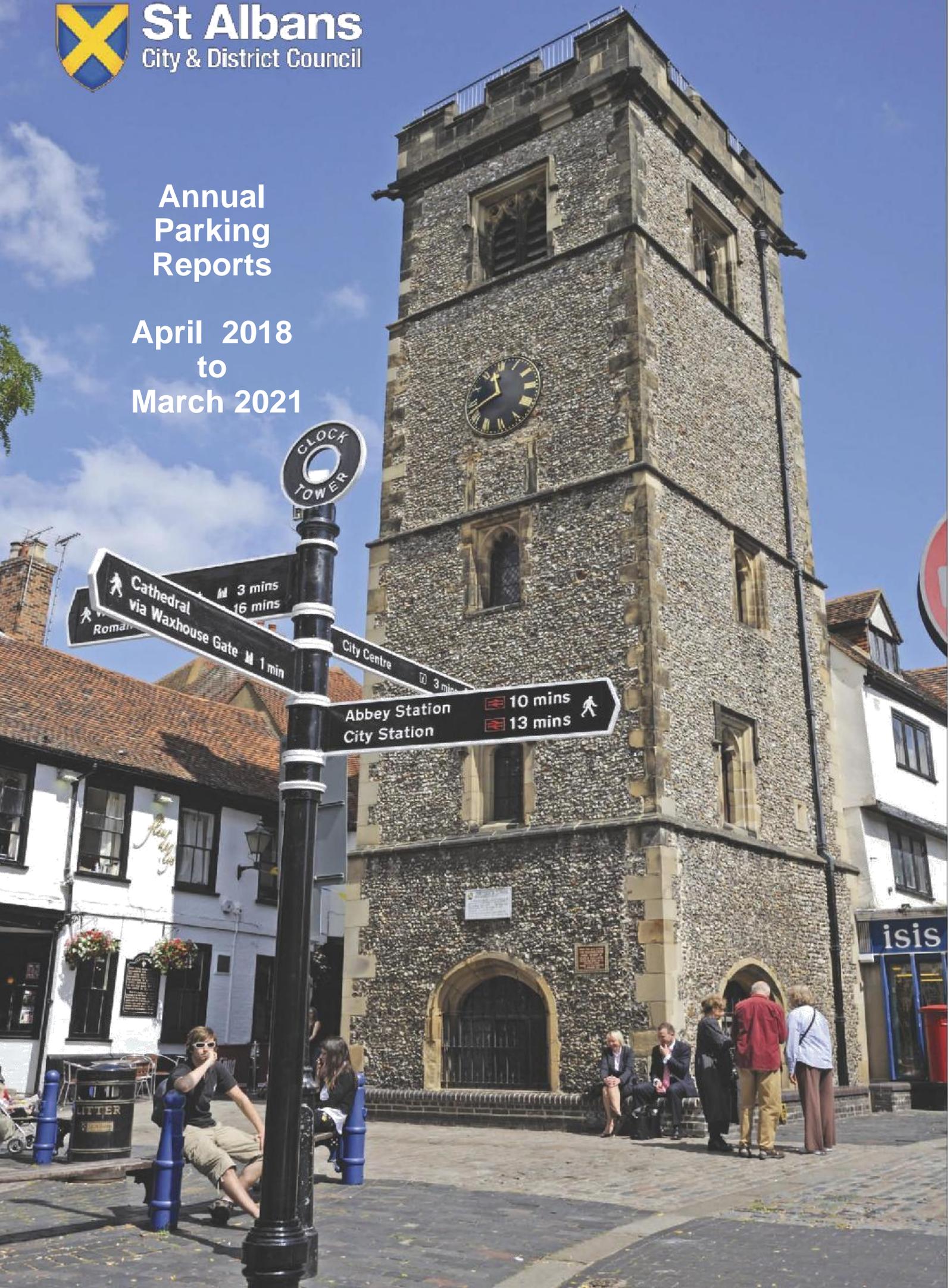




St Albans
City & District Council

Annual Parking Reports

April 2018
to
March 2021



Annual Parking Reporting- April 2018 to March 2021

Under the terms of the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Transport, Parking Enforcement Authorities are required to produce reports detailing its enforcement activities under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This is to promote openness with a better understanding of enforcement and why it is carried out. The Traffic Management Act 2004 came into effect on the 31st March 2008. All parking Authorities and drivers are obliged to follow it when dealing with parking enforcement matters.

This report covers the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021.

Introduction

St Albans City and District Council act as the Enforcement Authority for our off- street car parks. Under an Agency Agreement with Hertfordshire County Council we also act as the Enforcement Authority for on-street restrictions and parking control across the District.

The attractiveness of St Albans as a retail centre and tourist attraction, along with the drive to support its economy, has led to increasing pressures on parking in and around the District. An average of 30,513 cars per week use the district's public car parks, equating to around 1,525,650 per year and this level of vehicular activity needs to be managed effectively.

Our annual report sets out facts and figures relating to the Councils parking services activity. It is important to keep in mind why the Council manages parking in the first place. The Council seeks to maintain a balance between different driver demands— residents, visitors, businesses, disabled drivers and so on. This also needs to be balanced with the statutory duty placed upon the Council to take parking enforcement action against vehicles who park in contravention of the regulations in an effort to change driver behaviour.

We would like nothing more than to see driver compliance with the law and therefore not have to issue a single parking ticket. However the reality is that some drivers do contravene the law.

Alongside this is the aim of sustainability by trying to achieve efficient movement of vehicles throughout the District where inconsiderate parking can contribute to congestion, danger to the pedestrian public and increased pollution. The efficiency of our road network has clear links to minimising the wider impacts of traffic on poor air quality and the health of people.

Our main aims are to;

- Manage our finite kerb space - due to high levels of vehicle ownership.
- Educate and change - driver behaviour.
- Ensure we manage our parking resources effectively.
- Provide Controlled Parking where appropriate by following legislation.

- Provide clean and safe car parking facilities.
- Maintain a flexible parking service to allow for development over the longer term.
- Treat all those who contact us with courtesy.
- Help all those who contact us to understand the parking process.
- Operate the parking service with due diligence in line with the law.
- Consider each and every challenge to a parking ticket upon its merits in line with the relevant legislation.

Background

St Albans City and District Council has been undertaking Parking Enforcement since October 2004 using statutory powers granted by the Secretary of State for Transport under the Traffic Management Act 2004 via an agreement with the Highways Authority – Hertfordshire County Council.

From October 2004 to October 2019 our enforcement services were provided by NSL and our car parks management provided by NCP under a partnership contract.

Since October 2019 Parking Services has been delivered in-house directly by St Albans City & District Council

The main services are;

- Maintenance and management of car parks across the District
- Active kerb side and highway management
- Maintenance of our infrastructure
- Administration of the St Albans District permits scheme
- Administration of the parking appeals process
- Parking Enforcement Services across the District
- Consideration and implementation of parking controls

Car Parks

Car parks need to be safe, clean and well maintained to be attractive to motorists and 14 of our car parks have received the Park Mark Safer Parking Award.

Further details can be found using the following link

<https://www.parkmark.co.uk/about-the-safer-parking-scheme>

Full details of our car parks and other information relating to parking can be found at;

<https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/car-parks-and-street-pay-and-display>

Interesting Facts

- Hertfordshire has the 4th largest car ownership in England
- 82% of households have access to one or more cars
- 41% of households have access to two or more cars
- 9% have access to 3 or more cars
- Within the St Albans District 44% of all travel journeys made are less than 3 miles
- Less than a third of journeys are made by cycling or walking
- Commuting to work by car accounts for 60% of all journeys
- Over 1.5 million vehicles use St Albans car parks each year

With this level of vehicle activity the Council have a crucial part to play in ensuring that we keep traffic flowing, reduce pollution and reduce accidents. Inconsiderate parking does impact on the ability to get to grips with the issues surrounding car ownership. Our aim is to change negative driver behaviours where appropriate.



Traffic Management Act 2004

In March 2008 the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA 2004) came into effect. This replaced the Road Traffic Act 1991 (RTA 1991) under which the District enforced since October 2004. The Council uses Civil Enforcement Officers to enforce parking restrictions throughout the District. This includes St Albans, Harpenden, London Colney, Wheathampstead and surrounding areas. This also includes the enforcement of all off-street car parks owned by the Council.

The two main differences that affect motorists who park in contravention of the regulations under the Traffic Management Act 2004 are:

1. Some Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were reduced. There are now two different charge levels of PCN (known as differential charging), for example a vehicle parked on a yellow line restriction will be issued a PCN at the higher rate of £70 (£35 if paid *within* 14 days) whilst a vehicle parked over time in an off street car park is not deemed to be as serious a contravention and would therefore be issued with a PCN at the lower rate of £50 (£25 if paid *within* 14 days).
2. The other main difference between the Road Traffic Act 1991 (RTA 1991) and the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA 2004) is that if a motorist returned to their vehicle and drove away before a PCN was fixed to the vehicle or handed to the driver, the PCN was not deemed to be issued under the RTA 1991. However, under the TMA 2004, from 31st March 2008, a PCN may be issued through the post if the vehicle drives away before the PCN is attached to the vehicle or handed to the driver.



Statistical Information Relating to Penalty Charge Notices

Penalty Charge Notice (PCNs) information;

		01/04/18 to 31/03/19
1	Higher Level PCNs served	11684
2	Lower Level PCNs served	6283
3	Number of PCNs paid	15119
4	Payment Rate	84.15%
5	PCNs paid at discount rate	5307
6	PCNs paid at full charge before Charge Certificate	9812
7	PCNs paid after service of Charge Certificate	280
8	PCNs paid after issue of Warrant	359
9	Number of PCNs against which an informal or formal representation was made	3773
10	Number of PCNs cancelled as a result of an informal or formal representation	1579
11	Number of cases subject to adjudication at the Traffic Penalty Tribunal	36
12	Number of PCNs registered at the Traffic Enforcement Centre	1742
13	Number of vehicles immobilized (clamped)*	N/A
14	Number of vehicles removed (towed away)*	N/A

*St Albans City & District Council do not currently clamp or remove vehicles when parked in contravention

Statistical Information Relating to Penalty Charge Notices

Penalty Charge Notice (PCNs) information;

		01/04/19 to 31/03/20
1	Higher Level PCNs served	8309
2	Lower Level PCNs served	2991
3	Number of PCNs paid	9263
4	Payment Rate	81.97%
5	PCNs paid at discount rate	2469
6	PCNs paid at full charge before Charge Certificate	6794
7	PCNs paid after service of Charge Certificate	344
8	PCNs paid after issue of Warrant	298
9	Number of PCNs against which an informal or formal representation was made	3205
10	Number of PCNs cancelled as a result of an informal or formal representation	1079
11	Number of cases subject to adjudication at the Traffic Penalty Tribunal	42
12	Number of PCNs registered at the Traffic Enforcement Centre	1187
13	Number of vehicles immobilized (clamped)*	N/A
14	Number of vehicles removed (towed away)*	N/A

*St Albans City & District Council do not currently clamp or remove vehicles when parked in contravention

Statistical Information Relating to Penalty Charge Notices

Penalty Charge Notice (PCNs) information;

		01/04/20 to 31/03/21
1	Higher Level PCNs served	4963
2	Lower Level PCNs served	3110
3	Number of PCNs paid	6316
4	Payment Rate	78.24%
5	PCNs paid at discount rate	2454
6	PCNs paid at full charge before Charge Certificate	3862
7	PCNs paid after service of Charge Certificate	201
8	PCNs paid after issue of Warrant	161
9	Number of PCNs against which an informal or formal representation was made	2809
10	Number of PCNs cancelled as a result of an informal or formal representation	1079
11	Number of cases subject to adjudication at the Traffic Penalty Tribunal	25
12	Number of PCNs registered at the Traffic Enforcement Centre	625
13	Number of vehicles immobilized (clamped)*	N/A
14	Number of vehicles removed (towed away)*	N/A

*St Albans City & District Council do not currently clamp or remove vehicles when parked in contravention

Details of our income and expenditure relating to section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 is detailed below.

Year	2018/19
ON-STREET	£
<i>Income</i>	
Pay & Display/Meters	294,712
Residents, Visitors & Business Permits	577,431
Traffic Order Related Income	0
Other Non-PCN income	19,116
PCN Income - On & Off Street	435,981
Clamping/removals income	n/a
<i>Total Income</i>	1,327,241
<i>Expenditure</i>	
Contractors	889,524
In-House Staff	302,676
Support Costs	58,437
Public Consultation	6,484
Equipment Maintenance/Renewal	3,376
Signs and Lines Maintenance	67,276
Debt Registration Fees	24,000
Traffic Order Related Works	1,783
Traffic Penalties Tribunal	5,971
Other Supplies (postage, printing, telephones, etc)	25,751
Clamping/removals Expenditure	n/a
Depreciation	14,848
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	1,400,126
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	-72,885 *

*any deficit has to be made good by the Councils' general fund

Details of our income and expenditure relating to section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 is detailed below.

Year	2019/20
ON-STREET	£
<i>Income</i>	
Pay & Display/Meters	265,364
Residents, Visitors & Business Permits	560,679
Traffic Order Related Income	0
Other Non-PCN income	12,375
PCN Income - On & Off Street	231,165
Clamping/removals income	n/a
<i>Total Income</i>	1,069,584
<i>Expenditure</i>	
Contractors	227,388
In-House Staff	532,394
Support Costs	67,046
Public Consultation	3,051
Equipment Maintenance/Renewal	4,235
Signs and Lines Maintenance	19,221
Debt Registration Fees	132
Traffic Order Related Works	1,260
Traffic Penalties Tribunal	5,777
Other Supplies (postage, printing, telephones, etc)	69,957
Clamping/removals Expenditure	n/a
Depreciation	14,848
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	945,308
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	124,276*

*Any surplus is ringfenced under section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and can only be used on transport/parking related activities.

Details of our income and expenditure relating to section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 is detailed below.

Year	2020/21
ON-STREET	£
<i>Income</i>	
Pay & Display/Meters	109,781
Residents, Visitors & Business Permits	520,012
Traffic Order Related Income	0
Other Non-PCN income	9,549
PCN Income - On & Off Street	251,330
Clamping/removals income	n/a
<i>Total Income</i>	890,672
<i>Expenditure</i>	
Contractors	8,479
In-House Staff	879,918
Support Costs	151,594
Public Consultation	2,669
Equipment Maintenance/Renewal	2,967
Signs and Lines Maintenance	34,393
Debt Registration Fees	12,000
Traffic Order Related Works	9,780
Traffic Penalties Tribunal	1,012
Other Supplies (postage, printing, telephones, etc)	275,535
Clamping/removals Expenditure	n/a
Depreciation	7,424
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	1,385,771
<i>Surplus/Deficit</i>	-495,099 *

*any deficit has to be made good by the councils' general fund

Parking Services Contact(s)

All of our services are available on-line 24/7 with no constraint of normal business hours. For all your parking needs such as permits, suspensions and Penalty Charge Notices information please visit;

<https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport>

You may also call us with any enquires you have - **Telephone:** 01727 751824. Lines are open;

- Mon –08.45 am till 17.15 pm
- Tue- 08.45 am till 17.15 pm
- Wed- 08.45 am till 17.15 pm
- Thur- 08.45 am till 17.15 pm
- Fri- 08.45 am till 17.15 pm

If you need to report a vehicle in contravention or have a parking enforcement issue you can contact us by either telephone or e-mail;

Telephone Hotline: 01727 845 283

Email: illegalparking@stalbans.gov.uk

If you prefer to use the post please send your enquiry, parking ticket challenge, permit or suspension application to;

St Albans City & District Council
Parking Services
Civic Centre
St Peters Street
St Albans
Herts
AL1 3JE

We aim to respond to written enquires within 10 working days

New Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs)

The Council considers requests for new CPZs once there is a groundswell of resident opinion for an area that is supported by the local ward Councillor(s).

When a request for controlled parking is accepted it is then added to our work programme which can be viewed using the following web link below;

www.stalbans.gov.uk/request-new-restriction

Parking Consultations

For details on current parking consultations throughout the District of St Albans please visit our dedicated web page using the link below;

www.stalbans.gov.uk/troconsultations

You can also send an e-mail to parkingrestrictions@stalbans.gov.uk