



## How to contact us

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Town Clerk – Laura Chrysostomou

For the Attention of: Lisa Emmens  
Parking Services Manager  
Arun District Council  
Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd  
Littlehampton, BN17 5LF

4 September 2023

Dear Lisa

Thank you for sharing the District Council's proposals for the replacement of the current two-hour free parking disc scheme in the town centre carparks.

The Council considered these proposals in detail at a meeting held on 21 August and were disappointed to see that an app-based system was planned rather than the more up to date number plate recognition technology. Our members were strongly of the view that this was a missed opportunity particularly when there was evidence that this system had been successfully introduced in neighbouring parishes and could deliver longer free parking periods. This latter point is something that the Town Council through the implementation of the Town Centre Strategy would wish to see investigated further to support the local economy which is moving towards service-oriented businesses and would benefit from an extended free parking period. Members suggested a three-hour free parking period although it was appreciated this may impact on capacity, it should be considered.

In addition, our members also consider that a number plate recognition system would support ease of use, a factor which would not only encourage compliance among users and aid enforcement but provide a very accessible format for users of all abilities. Overall, it was the view of Members that if adopted, an app-based system would deter visitors to the detriment of the local economy. It was also considered that one year was too short a period for the transition. However, should the District Council choose the app-based system, the Town Council would want every effort made to ensure the new system is widely promoted including access arrangements for those who lack the technology to use it online.

Finally, regarding the working group proposal, we would be happy to join an initial meeting to understand how this might work and propose that the Town Council is represented by the Mayor and Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Freddie Tandy**  
Town Mayor

**Councillor Alan Butcher**  
Chair, Policy and Finance Committee