



Arundel Town Council  
Town Hall  
Maltravers Street  
Arundel  
West Sussex  
BN18 9AP

19th June 2024

Dear Cllr. Wallsgrove,

**Environment Committee - 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024: Item 7 River Road Car Park Review**

We are writing to you to express our concerns about the proposal that is being put to the Environment Committee regarding the Arundel River Road car park.

This proposal has two elements: that 10 spaces should be pay-and-display, and the remaining 4 spaces should be offered for lease.

Pay-and-Display

We believe that it will be dangerous to offer any spaces in this small car park on a pay-and-display basis because of the character of this road. Only 10 spaces will be available and when a driver is close enough to realise that none of these spaces are vacant, they will be forced to do a three-point to exit the road. They cannot drive straight ahead because the far end of River Road is closed by bollards.

River Road is narrow. In the vicinity of the car park, it has no pavement on one side and a very small pavement on the other (see the photograph). There is no other way to exit other than turning round. It is not a good location for a visitor car park.

We will be happy for Committee Members to meet with us in Arundel to see the issue for themselves.

Offered for Lease

We do not believe that Arundel residents or businesses will find the invitation to pay £3,000 or £5,000 per annum to lease spaces in an open-air car park in River Road an enticing prospect. An annual season ticket in the Mill Road car park is £320; an annual season ticket in the Lido car park is £318. It is not obvious why any resident would pay 10 times or 16 times as much to park in the River Road car park.

Unless ADC has some evidence to support this pricing proposal, we believe that the capital needed to make these spaces available will be at risk.

### Consultation

The Report circulated to members includes a statement (paragraph 5.3) regarding the views of Arundel Town Council that is not entirely accurate. The preference expressed by Arundel Town Council was to have “*either a car park specific permit (that only applies to this car park) OR a lease specific car parking spaces providing a guaranteed space for the driver.*”

The response also expressed concerns about the need to keep the costs of seasonal permits within reasonable bounds compared to other car parks in the District. This is important to Arundel where we need to encourage off-road parking.

### Arundel Town Council Recommendation

We recommend to the Environment Committee that:

1. Pay-and-Display is ruled out for reasons of safety.
2. River Road is made available to permit holders with the permits being specific to that car park  
  
and/or
3. Some spaces are offered on a leased basis which guarantees the parking space.
4. Testing is undertaken to assess the price that Arundel residents and businesses are prepared to pay for permits or leases. Pre-testing is the approach to pricing that any commercial company would undertake because any other approach is simply wishful thinking.

### EV Charging

We note the point in Para 4.9 (vi) that providing EV charging point in such a small car park would be uneconomic and that “*It has been suggested that it would be more economic to include additional EV charge points in Crown Yard car park as it is significantly bigger.*” We encourage the Committee to pursue this option of additional charging points in Crown Yard. At present, Arundel – which according to ADC’s own figures accounts for 42% of all visits to the District – has no public EV charging points which is a risk to the visitor economy of both the town and the District.

Yours sincerely,

*Carolyn Baynes*

Arundel Town Clerk