

Cllr Tysoe September Parish Council update

HDC TO REINSTATE CAR PARK CHARGES

Parking charges will be reinstated in Huntingdonshire from Monday 21 September 2020 following a six-month suspension.

To assist all key workers during the lockdown period, Huntingdonshire District Council suspended parking charges on 28 March and has continued to provide free parking throughout June, July and August to support the gradual reopening of the town centres as part of the Council's #ReopeningHuntingdonshire campaign. Whilst charges are to be reinstated, parking remains free after 6pm and all-day on Sunday at all sites across the district.

The District Council has developed and invested in a new digital system by Mi Permit, which extends payment options enabling people to pay via a range of contactless methods; via an app, SMS, Apple/Android pay as well as cash. The reintroduction of charging includes restoring parking permits, pay and display car parks run by the District Council and on-street parking.

Charges are to remain the same as they were pre-Covid when they are reinstated, and all sites will have the option for customers to pay via their mobile phone for extra ease and convenience. The ticket machines will be cleaned regularly, and hand sanitiser will be provided at each machine.

Councillor Marge Beuttell, Executive Councillor for Operations and Environment said, "Since the end of March, we have suspended charges across all our car parks to support key workers and those who were unable to work safely from home throughout the lockdown period. However, as more people return to the workplace and visit our town centres again, car park usage is quickly returning to pre-Covid levels. We have delayed reinstating parking charges for as long as possible – whilst being mindful of the significant loss of revenue during the period of charges being suspended. The free parking that has been provided over the last few months has cost the District Council approximately £1.3 million but it's not sustainable for the council to continue to absorb such losses in addition to the wider financial impact of Covid-19 without it affecting vital frontline services. With council tax covering less than 50 per cent of the services the District Council delivers, any surplus income generated from car parking directly supports services such as homelessness prevention, waste collection, street cleaning, and maintenance of our parks and open spaces. This income will also be used to help HDC deliver the tens of millions of pounds of investment it is planning in boosting and regenerating our market towns to help them recover from Covid-19 and prosper.

For permit holders who have had their pre-existing permit frozen, the District Council will be in contact directly to reinstate permits.

Council Tax Reminders

At the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, HDC offered to defer instalments due for April and May, and to extend the payment period to 15th March 2021, for those who were suffering financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic. Many customers applied for this and we hope that it helped them to rearrange their finances and get through the first difficult period.

Next week we will be sending reminders out to residents, and therefore we would like to encourage residents to pay or apply for Council Tax Support, as soon as possible. More information and how to do this, can be found on the HDC website.

One Leisure: Swimming

One Leisure are pleased to announce all One Leisure swimming pools reopened on Tuesday, 1 September. Customers can view pool timetables online, alongside details on how to book (which must be done in advance and before attending) and the changes that have been implemented to ensure safe swimming for all. The initial week of reopening will focus on adult/lane swims and restarting junior swimming lessons. This will be followed by public swims and family hire in the coming weeks.

HDC TO SUPPORT 'GREAT BRITISH SEPTEMBER CLEAN'

Huntingdonshire District Council is to support Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British September Clean', a rescheduled Great British Spring Clean which couldn't take place due to the UK being placed in lockdown amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The Great British Spring Clean brings together individuals, community organisations, businesses and councils to show they love where they live and in 2019 more than half a million #LitterHeroes collected more than 900,000 bags of rubbish.

People who wish to take part in community litter picks throughout September can do so by visiting the Council's Love Huntingdonshire Facebook group to find their closest event. And if people would like to organise their own litter picking event, please contact litterminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk where you will be provided with grabbers, hi-vis vests and bags collected from an organised point in the district.

Alongside the Keep Britain Tidy national campaign, HDC will be running a district-wide anti-litter social media campaign to encourage respect for our local outdoor spaces and create a cleaner, safer, more welcoming environment for everyone. During the campaign period, the council's social media channels will be encouraging the public to get involved in activities and engage with educational materials related to anti-litter and respecting our local environment, including:

- Children's creative activities
- Quizzes/Trivia/Puzzles
- Photo/Poetry Challenge

- Ways to get out and enjoy our parks
- Campaign videos

For more information regarding the campaign and ways to get involved, please email:
litterminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

Visit our website to fill out a litter picking webform:
<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/community-litter-picks/> or contact our call
centre on 01480 388388.