

STATEMENT OF REASONS

VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCIL (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES)(NO.2) ORDER 2021 RYE FARM AND HALES MEADOW, ABINGDON

The Vale of White Horse District Council, having been delegated functions under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2000, proposes to make the above order under Sections 32, 33(4) and 35 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, the effect of which will be to regulate the use of the Council's off street car parks. The proposals are set out in full in the Notice of Proposal, Order and Schedule.

The council is seeking comments on the proposed car park order. This order introduces spaces reserved for electric vehicles whilst charging, and enforcement for unauthorised parking in those spaces in respect of i) non-electric vehicles parked in those spaces and ii) electric vehicles parked in those spaces but not for the purpose of charging. The order sets out these changes and some other changes to the use of the car parks, including the phased removal of discounted residential permits over a four year period from 2020 to 2024 (residents continue to be able to park at no charge overnight between the hours of 6pm to 8am), and to remove the commercial vehicle parking (lorries and mobile homes) at Rye Farm and thereby increasing the size of Rye Farm car park for smaller vehicles.

At a cabinet meeting of 7 August 2020 it was resolved to introduce spaces reserved for electric vehicles whilst those vehicles are being charged and to allow enforcement of those spaces for unauthorised parking. The council is working to reduce carbon emissions and the use of electric vehicles is to be encouraged. Furthermore, it is the council's view that the majority of HGV's that used the area at Rye Farm car park set aside for commercial use, had come through Abingdon Town Centre around the one-way system. HGV's produce around seven times more emissions to air than cars and the removal of the lorry park will reduce the number of large vehicle movement through the town centre and through the Abingdon Air Quality Management Area. This order seeks to provide parking for one coach to meet the demands of local coach companies to set down and pick up at Hales Meadow car park, and to provide marked bays for the use of campervans at Hales Meadow car park.

Apart from the proposed changes referred to above, other proposals include:

- To formalise the parking and permits for market traders in respect of their exclusive use of Hales Meadow car park on market days.

The excess charge or concessionary excess charge will not change under these proposals and two hours free parking is retained.

The proposed changes referred to above require the council to make a new order. The council's main current car parking order was made in 2012 and accordingly the new order will mean improved car park management, more efficient enforcement and will bring the order up to date in line with legal requirements. Under the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996 the council are required to publicise the proposals and accordingly you are invited to give your views on the draft order by 19 November 2020 in writing or by email to John Backley, Technical Services Manager, Vale of White Horse District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB

or technicalservices@southandvale.gov.uk . Alternatively please follow the consultation link at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/parking .

John Backley
Technical Services Manager
Vale of White Horse District Council

29 October 2020