

	FULL COUNCIL
Date	12 February 2024
Agenda Item	14

To consider plans suggested by NEPP to control parking in the High Street

Halstead Gazette has recently reported:

FREE parking in Halstead town centre could end if a new pay and display system is brought in.

The North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) is looking at implementing the new system across the area.

Both Halstead High Street and The Centre have been put forward for the potential change. Drivers can currently park there for free for up to an hour between 8am and 6pm from Monday to Saturday, apart from some bays when the market is on.

The new pay and display system would be over the same period, with allowances for markets. Other roads touted for pay and display in the district are The Causeway in Braintree and Newland Street in Witham.

Documents say the new system is “to manage traffic and encourage appropriate use of off-street car parks for stays” and to “reduce the burden” on traffic officers from NEPP needing to return to check how long cars have been parked.

Reaction

On-street parking in Halstead is managed by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) whereas off street parking is managed by the Town Council.

Local residents and traders have reacted strongly to this suggestion. It would seriously affect shops in the High Street and their trade, especially as the town centre car park in Chapel Street is seeing a surge in people parking due to the new developments going up around the town.

In addition, the area of the High Street and the Centre are in the conservation area and installation of parking meters would be inappropriate. Some of the land in question is managed for use for the market, by the Lord of the Manor. The High Street is also part of the refurbishment project being carried out by BDC, and installation of parking meters at the top of the High Street would affect this project.

No changes to pay and display in Halstead have yet been published. Once they are advertised, comments will be received and considered by NEPP. Comments made at present will be kept on file.

Recommendation: that HTC registers the concern of local people over the plans to charge for parking on the High Street.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sarah Greateorex". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Sarah" and the last name "Greateorex" clearly legible.

Sarah Greateorex **Town Clerk**