

	Full Council
Date	11 March 2024
Agenda Item	11

To consider providing overnight motorhome parking in Butler Road carpark
Report from resident:

I am a resident in the town and appreciate the work down by groups such as Halstead In Bloom to make the town attractive and pleasant to live in and visit.

My wife and I own an old campervan which we make full use of, visiting all areas of Britain. A recent trip involved touring Kent and Sussex, and it was during this excursion that we appreciated more and more the provision of dedicated parking areas for motorhomes and campervans in towns. In Canterbury for example, the New Dover Road park and ride had full provision for motorhomes separate to cars, although there were overflow provisions. The cost was £4 per day, on the two days we were there I counted 16 motorhomes. This location is, of course, en route to and from the channel ports.

Elsewhere around the coast car parks were often free after either 6 or 9pm, charging commencing at 8am the next day. Even in early October these designated spaces were well used, with occupants regularly shopping or eating out locally. Normal charges would apply during the day.

One option to find such accommodating car parks is an online App "park4night" where campers add details of suitable parking.

My thought is that a small number, maybe 2 or 3 initially, of designated places could be marked out on one of the town council owned car parks, like Butler Road, to attract tourism to the town and surrounding area. Local facilities like a toilet, fuel, refreshment etc are close by, and overnight occupied motorhomes could also deter noisier elements from congregating nearby. My own experience of arriving with friends on a town centre car park soon resulted in the car enthusiasts going elsewhere.

Marking out would, I believe, only involve white lining larger bays with accompanying signs stating motorhomes only.

Recommendation: that HTC considers this reasonable request.

Sarah Greateorex

Sarah Greateorex **Town Clerk**