

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 as amended
LOCAL AUTHORITIES' TRAFFIC ORDERS (PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND
AND WALES) REGULATIONS 1996 as amended.**

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

**THE SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL (OFF-STREET PARKING
PLACES) (VARIATION) ORDER 2010**

STATEMENT OF REASONS.

1. Suffolk Coastal District Council (“the Council”) made the Suffolk Coastal District Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2008 (“the 2008 Order”) on the 14th February 2008. It came into force on the 1st April 2008.
2. An increase in ticket prices across the board was considered for introduction in 2010 but it was deemed unacceptable due to the impact on town centres thus affecting their economic vitality during the current recession. However the tourist car parks are considered to be inexpensive by modern standards and increases are proposed to raise approximately £70,000.
3. There are 5 seasonally charged car parks in Felixstowe (Arwela Road, Brackenbury Fort, Clifflands, Golf Road and Sea Road) which are currently free from November to February. The car parks are certainly used in the winter and an additional £13,500 can be expected from charging all year.
4. Increasing the charging days to include Sundays in all car parks was estimated to increase revenue by between £35,000 and £45,000 depending on usage (based on estimates ranging from 25% to 33% of weekday usage). This proposal was amended following consultation to leave Sundays uncharged in the car parks in Wickham Market, Leiston and Saxmundham. Revised revenue increase is therefore reduced to between £29,000 and £38,000). The Avenue in Woodbridge is currently not charged on weekends or bank holidays and it is proposed to bring it into line with the others by charging every day and from 8:00 until 18:00.
5. A reduced price annual season ticket was introduced in 2008/09 following receipt of a petition from beach hut owners who felt that they should qualify for a reduction as they were already paying rent for their huts. The normal price for season tickets in the long-stay seafront car parks is £80 per quarter or £200 per year. To trial the scheme an annual permit was offered at £35 and 108 were sold. The proposal is to increase the price to £55 which would bring in an additional £2,160 if the same number were sold.
6. Wireless Green, Felixstowe is being used a free public car park on Sundays and on Saturdays and weekdays in the summer season but it was removed from the traffic order in 2008 when the expectation was for the site to be redeveloped. That has been delayed, and in the meantime an enlarged area has been made available in order to encourage tourism. To allow any enforcement and possibly future charging it needs to be put back in to the order.
7. The limits of the car park at Oak Lane, Woodbridge are to be enlarged following redevelopment of the former New Street Primary School site by Suffolk County Council.

8. The limits of the car park and coach and lorry park at Station Road, Woodbridge are to be reduced due to the development of a Skate Park.
9. At the Landguard peninsular in Felixstowe, major developments are now underway, following establishment of the Landguard Partnership, and the implementation of Phase 1 of the 'Felixstowe South Reconfiguration' (FSR) project by the Port of Felixstowe. Under the Section 106 agreement related to FSR, the Port are funding the Partnership for a 10 year period, and also creating the first part of a new car park adjacent to Landguard Fort on land released from the current Landguard Terminal. Work on the latter is expected to be complete by January 2010, after which SCDC will become responsible for managing the new car park, in addition to the current arrangement for the John Bradfield Viewing Area. Additionally, the Port is funding an upgrade of View Point Road to adoption standards, although it is not currently expected that the road will be adopted as Highway. In the longer term a new Visitor Centre and a replacement Viewing Area car park are scheduled to be created. The car parks will need to be managed, and potentially charged, for the purposes of facilitating the ongoing development of all the attractions on the Peninsular as a potential major tourist attraction. The overall principle will be to introduce a regime with that objective, but covering the Council's costs in managing these car parks. The intention is that any revenue generated beyond operational costs would be dedicated to the continuing funding of the Partnership and the management of the peninsular generally, and is not expected to contribute to SCDC's net revenue. New maps are required to delineate the areas that require enforcement powers, including both the parking area, and the whole of Viewpoint Road.
10. The limits of the car park at Leisure Centre, Felixstowe are to be enlarged following Ocean Amusements decision to not renew the lease on their whole area. Ocean Amusements currently lease 4 areas from SCDC but only require 2 of them from 2010. If included in the order then it can be made into car parking (in whole or in part) if required in the future.
11. The limits of the car park at Oakley Square, Aldeburgh are to be enlarged following the discovery that a piece of land owned by SCDC adjoining the car park is currently not covered by the order. This will enable complaints received of vehicles parking to be addressed.
12. Car parking charges were introduced in Wickham Market in 2008. The tariffs were set very low as the aim was to help manage the traffic movement around the area, assist in improving the vitality of the town as a local shopping centre while covering the costs of enforcement and maintenance. Gross annual revenue was projected to be around £10,000 but in fact ticket sales grossed £18,000 which allowed concessions requested by the Parish Council to be granted.
13. It is proposed to allow for the introduction of an administration charge, not exceeding £10.00, for the issue of free parking permits where they are available, and for the reissue or replacement of free permits or season tickets for any reason (e.g. because the previous one has been lost or defaced, or because the holder has obtained a different car). This is to cover administration costs.
14. Motorhomes are permitted in 19 of the 57 car parks currently covered by the traffic order. In the other 38 they are designated as "not permitted". This is mainly due to their size and lack of manoeuvrability. However there are many smaller models no bigger than a large car and it seems unreasonable to prevent these

vehicles using the car parks especially as they seem to be particularly popular with the elderly and mobility impaired. The car park inspectors currently use their discretion as to whether a particular motorhome is causing an obstruction but it is unsatisfactory as it is a subjective decision. The rules should remain the same for motorhomes over 5.5 metres (18 feet) in length and 2 meters (6.6 feet) width but a new category of “Motorised caravans (small)” could be added to the schedules to allow smaller vehicles to be treated in the same way as cars. Also, caravans are to be allowed in Station Road car park as currently there is nowhere in Woodbridge that they may be parked.

15. Suffolk Coastal aims to operate an enforcement regime which is ‘customer-friendly’. In that context, there are many instances where we choose to cancel an ECN, but would like to be able to charge an administration fee for our time. We would propose setting this at a maximum of £10.
16. It is appropriate to amend the 2008 Order to reflect some practical changes that have been made. Some changes were made because of errors which have come to light. It is appropriate to correct them. Other changes are proposed in response to requests made to the Council.
 - Motor caravans may park in the parking place at Slaughden Quay. This is being allowed as they are no longer permitted to park on the sea wall.
 - The parking place at Convalescent Hill, Felixstowe is designated as a Long Stay car park (instead of Short/Long Stay). This enables Tariff 17 to be amended to include a £10 1 week visitor/tourist ticket and an £80 quarterly season ticket (instead of £130.00). This is a correction, not a change in practice.
 - The parking places at Leiston High Street and Sizewell Road shall be assigned to tariff code 10 (instead of tariff code 9), reducing the all day charge from £2 to £1.50. This is a correction, not a change in practice.
 - The tariff code for the parking place at Saxmundham Market Place shall be 10 (instead of 9), reducing the all day charge from £2 to £1.50. This is a correction, not a change in practice.
 - At the parking places at Wickham Market (The Hill Long Stay and The Hill Short Stay), charges shall be payable from 9.00am (instead of 8.00am). This is in response to a Wickham Market Parish Council request to allow parents to drop children off for school without incurring a charge.
 - At the parking place at Wickham Market The Hill Long Stay there shall be up to 11 parking spaces where parking shall be free for up to half an hour. This is in response to a Wickham Market Parish Council request.
 - The chargeable hours at Station Road Coach/Lorry Park are currently 24 hours Monday – Saturday inclusive, at £2 per day or part day. Parking for coaches remains free between 10.00 and 22.00. This is a correction, not a change in practice.
17. Quarterly and Annual Season Tickets currently must start from the 1st of the month (Part 2, Section 9 sub-section b) but all Season Tickets now have a start date and end date displayed and the Tourist Information Centres can issue them at any point in the month so it is proposed to remove this restriction. It is also proposed to offer an Annual (Short-Stay) season ticket priced at £350.