

SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL

The Swanage Town Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024

Statement of Reasons

The following is a statement of the Council's reasons for making the above-mentioned Order, a copy of which was made available for inspection at the Town Hall, High Street, Swanage, Dorset on 7 February 2024. The proposed Order seeks to consolidate the provisions of the Council's existing parking orders, as follows:

- The Swanage Town Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2007
- The Swanage Town Council (Off Street Parking Places) Amendment (No 1) Order 2007
- The Swanage Town Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2007 (Amendment No 2) Minor Order 2011

These orders will be revoked once The Swanage Town Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2024 is made.

The Order is also being introduced to make the changes listed below.

The Order will introduce provisions to regulate the charging of electric vehicles in certain Town Council car parks.

The Council's long-stay car parks will no longer be chargeable 24-hours a day. Free overnight parking will be introduced between the hours of 9 p.m. and 8 a.m. in order to ensure that no charge is made for access to electric vehicle chargers, in compliance with the grant requirements of Dorset Council's 'Charging Ahead' initiative, which will see additional electric vehicle charging points installed in certain Town Council car parks.

The Order will remove Sandpit Field, Queen Elizabeth II (Forres) Field and the hardstanding on Shore Road from the Off-Street Parking Order. Since parking regulations were introduced in these areas in 2007 it has not proven necessary to manage parking in these locations under the provisions of the Off-Street Parking Places Order. The Town Council has recently adopted an unauthorised encampments policy which will guide the response to unauthorised parking in these locations.

The area defined as the Boat Park Slipway is to be increased under the new Order, thereby enabling the Town Council to prevent unauthorised parking in front of the Fishers' Huts at Peveril Point.

The definition of resident in order to qualify for a resident's permit will be amended to require a matching address, on both the applicant's council tax bill and vehicle registration document, in the following civil parishes: Swanage, Langton Matravers, Corfe Castle (including Kingston), Studland, Church Knowle, Steeple, Worth Matravers (including Harmans Cross) and Kimmeridge.

Parking for residents' permit holders will be free of charge in the Broad Road car park between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., in recognition of the demand for residents' parking in this area, and also at Main Beach and North Beach car parks to align the charging periods for the long stay car parks.

The Order will introduce free parking for residents' permit holders at North Beach car park for half an hour either side of the start time for St Mary's School, Northbrook Road, term time only, to enable the safe drop off and pick up of children attending the school, and to relieve congestion on Northbrook Road.

Parking in the Residents' car park will be restricted to vehicles not exceeding 4.8m in length to ensure no obstruction of Horsecliffe Lane.

In order to bring consistency to the Council's long-stay car parks, charges will be introduced in North Beach Car Park for the period 1 November to 31 March.

In order to provide consistency for visitors to the county, the definition of a Motorhome will be brought into line with Dorset Council's Off-Street Parking Places Order, and as in Dorset Council car parks this class of vehicle will be prevented from parking in Town Council car parks after 10 p.m. This removes provision for Motorhome Stopovers included in the Swanage Town Council (Off Street Parking Places) Amendment (No.1) Order 2007.

The Order will introduce multi-use spaces for larger vehicles over 4.8m in length in order to reduce confusion over where longer vehicles can park.

The Order will introduce a 1-hour no return period in the Town Council's short stay car parks in order to increase the availability of parking spaces for those visiting the town centre.

The Order will restrict parking along Peveril Point Road to those displaying a Peveril Point Resident's Pass year-round, replacing the current seasonal restriction between 1 May and 30 September. The Order will also introduce separate provisions for the management of the Fishers' Car Park, Peveril Point Road. Both of these measures will reduce congestion along Peveril Point Road.

Martin Ayres
Town Clerk

7 February 2024