



# Media Release

*Lynne Mee*

**Direct line 01423 556022**

**Communications and Media Manager** Direct fax 01423 561154 not 24 hrs

24 hour fax “ 556010  
Mobile 07884 226409

Email [lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk)

[www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)

pr1064.Pay and Display review.doc

DATE: 26 October 2004

## REVIEW OF NEW PARKING CONTROLS

The extended pay and display areas introduced in the town centre in May this year were aimed at making sure spaces are used more effectively and to improve traffic flow. The promised six-month review of these new measures has just been completed.

Regular surveys of parking demand have been carried out on the affected streets and these show that spaces in Lower Station Parade and Commercial Street are well used with only three or four spaces being available mid-morning and mid afternoon.

Cambridge Crescent also continues to be very well used and for much of the day there are very few gaps.

The effect that the new arrangements have had on traffic flow in the town centre has also been monitored. The past problems of cars queuing out onto Cheltenham Parade whilst drivers search for free town centre parking have been overcome resulting in improved road safety and traffic flow in the area.

Councillor Julian Sturdy, Cabinet Member for Public Works, said: “There has been a significant reduction in traffic congestion and the spaces have been well used by motorists, in fact they remain amongst the most popular spaces in the town centre.

“Concerns were voiced by businesses and we did respond to calls from Commercial Street to trial reducing the maximum stay period from three hours to one. However, although the street remained busy, reduction to one-hour stay only would be out of line with the rest of the town centre.

“The survey conflicts with the traders’ view that there are very few people parking in Commercial Street and it is clear that Harrogate still remains a competitive town to park in. For the regular shopper on Commercial Street and Lower Station Parade, 30p for twenty minutes, 60p for forty and 90p for an hour is very cheap when compared to such areas as York and Leeds”.

Checks were also made on the length of time motorists are paying to park as part of the review - with the majority staying for up to two hours. It has therefore been agreed that the length of stay in Commercial Street be fixed to a maximum stay of three hours to ensure consistency with the majority of on street parking in the town and help to avoid confusion to the motorist.

Councillor Sturdy added: “It is of course recognised that there will be increased revenue from these new pay and display spaces but the money will be ‘set aside’. On street car parking income has to be used to fund parking improvements as a first priority and then

highway or public transport improvements and I shall be asking officers to examine ways in which this income can be sensibly reinvested in the local area for the benefit of traders and shoppers alike." ENDS

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** The extension to the town centre scheme included introducing three hours maximum stay at the following locations in Harrogate:

- Ripon Road (near the Hotel St George)
- Commercial Street/Lower Station Parade
- Union Street (near multi storey car park)
- Parliament Terrace
- Cambridge Road (near the war memorial)
- Montpellier Hill (just off West Park)
- West Park (near Beech Grove/near Prince of Wales roundabout)
- Station Parade (near Victoria Avenue)

The 20-minute maximum stay times in the pay and display parking spaces in Cambridge Crescent and Princes Street have been retained to facilitate short trips to the bank or post office.

The existing free 15-minute limited parking on Victoria Avenue has also been retained to assist parents whose children attend St Peter's School and the one hour maximum stay period for the pay and display spaces outside the library.

**FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Julian Sturdy is available for comment on 07836 692010. More technical information is available from Mr John Burton, Chief Engineer (Highways and Transportation) 01423 556066.**