



**OFFICER RESPONSE TO PETITION
LOCAL COMMITTEE
(MOLE VALLEY)**

ON STREET CAR PARKING CHARGES IN BOOKHAM

PETITION

08 JUNE 2011

This petition of 1,432 signatures was submitted by Bookham Retail and Business Association

We present this petition on behalf of the residents and businesses of Bookham, all of who wholeheartedly oppose the introduction of on-street parking charges.

We do not consider that a defensible case, based on sound evidence, has been made for the introduction of these charges.

It is beyond all doubt that this proposal would have an adverse effect on the business trading in the High Street and Church Road. Further, it will cause the displacement of business to other areas, such as Fetcham and Effingham, where charges would not apply.

The introduction of on-street parking charges conflict with the provisions of the Local Development Framework Policy CS9. This clearly states that no action will be allowed that affects the viability of the village centre. It also not accord with the principles of localism or indeed with the frontrunner project that Bookham has been so successful in bidding to participate in.

Bookham functions very well with its current parking arrangements and nothing should be introduced that would alter the situation.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/molevalley

The Parking Team Manager, Operations, Highways and Countryside responds:

The County Council has listened to Surrey residents and businesses across the County and understands their concerns about parking charges. As a consequence the proposals have been revised in many locations, including Bookham where a free initial 1/2 hour parking is now proposed. This should help increase turnover of the parking spaces in the village and make sure visitors and residents are not deterred from visiting the local shops. The introduction of pay and display parking charges will enable the council to work more efficiently and provide a better service for residents. The introduction of on street pay and display makes the enforcement of parking spaces much easier. This means that Civil Enforcement Officers would be able to spend less time in these areas and would consequently have more time to enforce yellow line waiting restrictions that are often in place to maintain road safety or reduce obstructive parking.

The efficient operation of parking enforcement is more likely to mean it will not need to be subsidised by residents through the community charge. Mole Valley District and the County Council are also looking at other ways of improving the efficiency of the parking enforcement service such as sharing administration costs.

At the present time there are no proposals to introduce parking charges in Effingham or Fetcham, as these shopping areas were originally considered to be too small. This could be revisited to see if it would still be the case and for Fetcham reported to the Committee at a later date. Effingham would need to be considered by the Guildford Local Committee.

Proposals for on street parking charges will go forward for formal public consultation in Mole Valley this autumn. The Mole Valley Local Committee will then be able to review the consultation response and decide how to proceed.