

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**19 July 2019**

**INTRODUCTION OF PARKING CHARGES**

The Town Council would like to state that whilst it intends to recommence charges in the Dowell Street, Car Park in the near future, it does so only after much consideration and debate. These charges will apply only during the day and evening and Sunday parking will be free. Unlike many authority carparks, disabled parking in the disabled badge bays will also be free to those displaying a blue badge.

Over the next 5-6 years there are likely to be costs linked to the carpark of between £40-50,000 irrespective of if charging is introduced or not. These costs are linked to resurfacing, line marking, grounds maintenance and rates. These are not insubstantial costs.

In recognising that there is demand for the carpark from local homeowners the intention is to allow Honiton residents to purchase a permit for £40. This works out at less than £1 per week. It is also the intention to have a 15 minute grace period to allow people to drop off and pick up without the need to buy a ticket. Honiton Community Complex will be issued with a number of free permits to assist the volunteers with the invaluable work that they do.

At a time when the council is coming under increasing pressure to declare a climate emergency, any steps that encourage people to walk or to car share should be welcomed.

The council is actively looking to encourage people to visit the town and sadly inconsiderate parking has meant that coaches have not been able to access the coach parking in recent times. The policing of the car park is essential to prevent this from happening.

**Mark Tredwin**  
Town Clerk

