

PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF CAR PARKING CHARGES AT SHELDON COUNTRY PARK

Questions and Answers from online Webinar Session – 27th August 2025

Q) Why will the charging end at 6pm? Can it not be extended after 6 to reduce anti-social behaviour? Will it not be harder to lock up the parks if people choose to come after 6 also?

A) A similar proposal has been put forward by West Mercia Police for the ongoing ASB at Lickey Hills Country Park i.e. extend the chargeable period so that charges are in place until the gate is locked. We have no evidence that extending the chargeable period will deter ASB, however.

The proposed chargeable period has to be reasonable and allow visitors to access the park, especially in the summer months, without having to consider having to pay for parking. We will take the suggestion on board and review the position over time.

Q) Will the vehicles who are constantly blocking the entrance to Ragley Drive be ticketed?

A) If the Prohibition of Waiting Order (TRO) for Ragley Drive is approved, parking along the carriageway will not be permitted and will be enforced.

Q) Would there be any provisions to allow Scouts Group parents drop off and pickups? Also, we run fundraising events some Saturdays, would there be provision for that?

A) If the proposals approved and go ahead, there will be 30 minute grace period in the parking sessions to allow for parents to pick up and drop off children.

In terms of events, the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the proposed parking charges has been written to accommodate the suspension of parking charges for a period of time where necessary. Hence, requests to suspend parking charges for the duration of a Scouts fundraising event is achievable and will be considered upon application i.e. in advance of such events.

Q) Is there any proposal for better lighting along Ragley Drive or the car park? It is very dark, and we have number of parents drop off children to Scouts Group and very nervous about walking from the car park to our building?

A) There are no plans at this stage to improve lighting along Ragley Drive or install lighting within the car park. As a general rule we tend to avoid lighting our parks if possible because it tends to

advertise the park is open and attracts unwanted visitors. The option of lighting is something we can take away and explore at a later date using car park revenue.

Q) Isn't the comparator of Cannon Hill an unrepresentative one? Have you any other comparators. Cannon Hill is completely different

A) It is appreciated Cannon Hill has a different offering than Sheldon Country Park. Cannon Hill Park has been used as a comparator because it is the only park currently with car park charges in place. So when we talk about enforcement we are drawing upon the experience of the enforcement scheme currently in effect and working well at Cannon Hill Park.

Q) How did you arrive at the income figure? You can't compare Cannon Hill for financial modelling because Cannon Hill Park has a different offering.

A) The financial modelling has been developed collaboratively with park managers, using a combination of local observational data and historical usage patterns. The modelling has further been cross-checked against visitor footfall data to check for accuracy. Once borrowing has been repaid the projected revenue will exceed the ongoing operational costs for the scheme.

Q) What are the timescales?

A) The consultation will end on 29th August 2025. An objections report will then be submitted for consideration and a report detailing the findings of the consultation shared with the Cabinet Member for final decision.

Q) We moved the gate in front of the Scouts Headquarters back within the boundary of our lease to allow small amount of people to pull in to drop kids off. If double yellow lines are put across the front of these gates on our land, it will create an issue for us as we use that area for loading for camping etc.

A) We will need to raise this question with Enforcement/Highways colleagues. Under the current proposals for Ragley Drive there is a chance individuals who park in front of the gate will be ticketed, but only Enforcement colleagues will be able to advise.