

Results of Church St Car Park Survey

Businesses

As part of this survey, we contacted the 3 'businesses' who depend on the car park (Wally Dutton's, The Willows Vets, and the Surgery) to establish how many of their staff use the car park during business hours.

The responses were;

- Wally's 5 (normally 6 but 1 now parks at the Social Club)
- Surgery 5-6 (not including visitors/patients)
- Willows vets 0 - they all park at the Social Club.

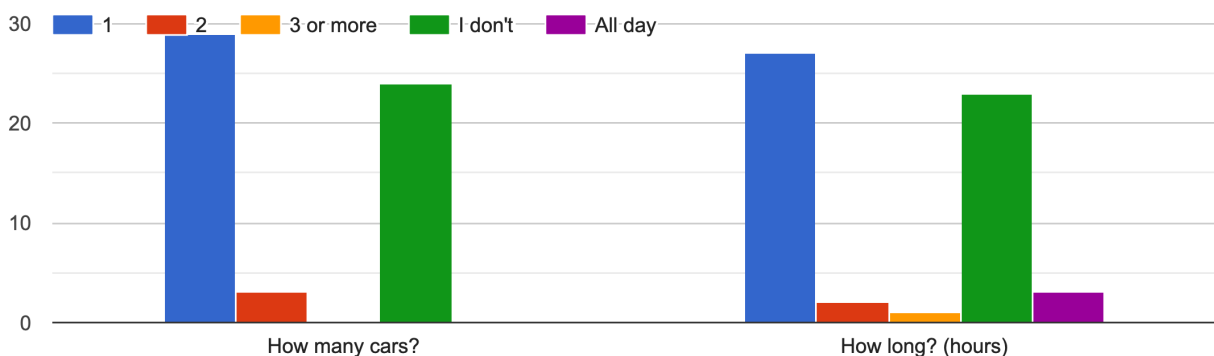
So, the 2 'businesses' whose staff use the car park during the day occupy more than 50% of the available spaces (19 + 2 disabled)

Residents

A total of 56 responses were received, 11 from Church Street residents.

Car park usage

Q.2. Do you ever park your vehicles(s) in the car park during the day? If so, how many?



This is split between

- parking for visits to the shops, for 1 hr or two (29),

- People who don't use it (many have said in their comments that they prefer to walk as they find that the car park is always full anyway)
- Permanent parkers (3 responses, likely to be the same who said they park 2 vehicles - since that would not happen with a visit to the shops)
This includes someone who is moving to a Church St address and is intending to do so.

Q. 3 Do you ever park your vehicle(s) in the car park overnight?

7 responses, 4 of them all the time, some with 2 cars (same respondents as above)

Where else would you park?

Most people said they would park on the road, or if not possible, at the Community Centre / Social Club, although some mentioned that they put off going to the butchers if it's raining since they know they won't be able to park.

Attitude to Time Limits

Many respondents mistakenly thought that charges for parking would be introduced, rather than our intention to put a time limit on free parking.

Comments indicate that there are few issues with a time limit of 2 hours on free parking. Many knew and objected to the fact that the butchers and surgery staff park some of their vehicles all day. Many expect the situation to improve once the doctor's surgery relocates.

Road safety

There was some support for double yellow lines opposite the exit only. Some people mentioned that the bus shelter blocks visibility at the exit.

Conclusions

The Church St residents mostly answered No to the question about paying for a parking permit. However they were also very annoyed about the traffic situation, congestion & pollution, and the difficulty of driving on Church St.

It looks like there would be broad support for a 2-hr time limit on free parking, if enforcement can be put in place. For those Church St residents without off-road parking, we could introduce an annual parking permit with a small charge.