



## 'FINES LESS EXPENSIVE' THAN CAR PARK CHARGES IN CAMBRIDGE

Parking fines are a more affordable option than car park fees in Cambridge, the City Council has admitted.

The dispute has arisen after a parking charge notice was found to cost just £25, while a ticket at the Grand Arcade shopping centre costs £26 between 9am and 6pm, with an additional £1 per hour after this, meaning the total can reach £42 per day.

Councillor Tim Ward, in charge of parking in Cambridge has said: "We don't look at fines when setting the parking charges. We don't think of it."

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) has received £3,558,000 in parking fines since 2010, with 43,000 tickets since then.

The high ticket price was aimed at preventing shoppers overstaying and occupying spaces that could be used by fresh customers, therefore keeping a high turnover of trade in the city centre.

Residents have expressed surprise, with one quoted in the Cambridge News as saying: "People think they might as well just take the risk of getting a ticket, because it costs the same

to park legally anyway."

Commenting on the story, the BPA said: "Local councils set car parking fees that support local economies and transport plans. Penalty charges in England, outside London, are set by Government and have not been reviewed since 2001. Failure to regularly review these charges is unfair on council tax payers who will be subsidising parking enforcement and it undermines effectiveness of local transport policies. We believe that penalty charges should be reviewed at least every four years."

## NSL TEAMS GET SMART IN MANCHESTER

NSL's civil enforcement officer (CEO) parking team in Manchester is sporting a new look as it hits the streets in June sporting a new uniform that will also benefit local charity shops.

The CEOs, who work with Manchester City Council (MCC) have exchanged their old uniforms for a contemporary outfit, which will feature epaulettes and a black and plum cap. The old uniforms will be sold to a clothes recycling company, with the proceeds donated to Shelter.

MCC chose the colour of the new outfit, with the red being discarded as it is traditionally associated with anger and aggression. The new look is a move to make CEOs more approachable and friendly.

MCC councillor Nigel Massey welcomed the



change in appearance, saying: "This move, which won't cost the council a penny, will not only make our civil enforcement officers look much smarter, but will also benefit recycling companies as well as a worthy charity."

## TALKING HEADS

Driver networks will get a shock when a disconnected road warns them to move their vehicles.

The taking parking ticket system, introduced by parking equipment manufacturers FlarePark, can be customised to deliver a message appropriate to the situation.

Companies, organisations or individuals issuing the tickets can customise the messages delivered by the tickets to a length of 30 seconds. The flexibility of this verbal delivery method allows issuers to be as stern or as disingenuous as they see fit.

FlarePark's head of business development, Curtis Combsford, said: "The ticket is the latest addition to our range of low cost solutions."

## SEEING DOUBLE IN NORFOLK



Modern double yellow lines have appeared on a road in Wymondrham, Norfolk, prompting an investigation by Norfolk County Council (NCC).

The lines, which run across the driveway of a house, appeared during May, and were reported by a resident of Franscroft Lane.

Highways network manager for NCC Tim Edwards said the 10ft (32m) lines looked official. He added:

"This is the first occasion I have ever come across that someone has taken it upon themselves to paint double yellow lines."



## SMARTEYE SENSORS TAKE A LEVEL VIEW IN SMARTPARK UPGRADE

3G parking solution SmartPark has received an upgrade, which has given its SmartEye infra-red sensors a level, anti-slip profile.

SmartPark gives drivers with real-time information on unoccupied on-street car parking spaces in urban centres. The SmartEye sensor uses infrared to detect when a vehicle has occupied a parking space.

The sensors are also now Rock

Frequency Identification (RFID) equipped to allow RFID tag identification, leading to hassle-free residential and Blue Badge permit parking.

Drivers access SmartPark by mobile, via iPhone or Android devices to see where unoccupied parking spaces are located nearby. This updates online via 3G to a central server, where they are then transmitted in real time.

## MOTORIST JAILED AFTER SWORD THREAT DURING PARKING ROW

A man who threatened a neighbour with a fake sword after a row over parking has been jailed for nine months at Plymouth Crown Court.

Jason Pagan, 35, of Ashburton became mute after feeding his neighbour's car in his parking space in April. During the course of the ensuing argument, Pagan fetched the

fake sword from his house and threatened Brian Kay with it.

Prosecutor Philip Sewell said, at an earlier hearing in Torbay, that Pagan gripped the 40-inch weapon, uttering phrases like 'kill' and 'run you through'.

Judge Graham Carter jailed Pagan for nine months, and ordered the sword to be destroyed.

## NEW LIFE FOR PRESTON CAR PARK WITH SIKA

St George's car park in Preston is enjoying a new lease of life thanks to a major refurbishment, which saw its aged concrete structure strengthened and repaired.

The 47-year-old structure also had a new waterproof and decorative decking system on all of its six levels.

The work was carried out with building product manufacturer Sika, and used its Rapid Repair Mortar, decking systems and EcoLine flooring products.

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