

Dear Upminster Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of several residents in Upminster who have expressed their concerns with the state of parking in Upminster. Parking is vital to the high street and local businesses.

There has been widespread confusion over parking. A list has been made of concerns:

1) When is there free parking?

I understand that there will be only 30 minutes free parking coming to Upminster, this is coming in from April. However, in the evenings and overnight, is there free parking and what times will this be for?

2) What are the new parking charges for Upminster?

Residents have expressed concerns that the new charges haven't been communicated clearly. Again, whilst the charges are coming in from April, it has not been made clear how much more residents have to pay. It appears to be a 40% hike, charging £2.10 an hour and £3.90 for 2 hours.

3) Why did the Residents Association Political Party vote against the fully costed Conservative proposal to freeze parking charges?

Despite 9.5% more funding from the government for the next year and a 4.99% council tax rise, a lot of residents feel that they are getting less value for money. The council should not be using 13 year old numbers to justify their bad decisions.

4) Is there free parking if the pay machines are out of order?

Many residents have observed pay machines covered with bin bags. The bulletin suggests free parking is in place in the event that no machine is working, however, several residents have received tickets by wardens as the wardens claim you don't get free parking because you can pay via the app.

5) How can you pay for parking if you do not have the app?

Many residents, especially the elderly, have trouble with the app. Some residents don't have mobile phones and the process can be overwhelming for some. If the machines are out of order, how can residents pay?

6) Will there be better signage to clearly show parking rules?

Some residents are leaving parking to chance. None the wiser on the rules and what charges they have to pay and when they need to pay, many residents are deterred from parking or face fines. Better signage will help residents.

As a resident of Upminster myself, I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Adam Baker
Deputy Chairman
Hornchurch and Upminster Conservative Association