

14 Ashdown Forest Carparking Questionnaire (taken from online survey)

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARKING SCHEME

Payment for parking would be able to be made through payment machines located on five of the largest and busiest car parks using credit cards and smart phones, by using a smart phone-based app, and through a website. Alongside many other rural locations, to reduce the risk of theft, cash payments are not proposed.

Car parks would be visited by parking wardens employed by a management company who will check vehicles have followed the parking charges.

Charges would apply every day (Monday to Sunday), including bank holidays, during opening hours (6am to midnight).

The charges under consideration by the Conservators have been based on a comparison with 11 other similar sites that charge for parking. To achieve the required level of income, charges are proposed to be in the region of:

- £2.00 for up to 1 hour
- £2.50 for up to 2 hours
- £4.00 for up to 4 hours
- £6.00 for an all-day pass (16 hours)

An annual parking pass would cost from £80 to £100.

There would be no charge for Blue Badge holders or motorbikes.

All parking tickets and passes would be valid for all car parks managed by Ashdown Forest for the duration of their validity.

These charges would be introduced in all Ashdown Forest car parks from Spring/Summer of 2022.

1-3 Questions about the respondent

4. What is the main activity you undertake on Ashdown Forest? Please tick the closest answer.

- ☐ Dog-walking ☐ Walking ☐ Jogging / power walking ☐ Outing with family /
picnicking ☐ Cycling ☐ Wildlife / bird watching ☐ Fishing ☐ Photography
☐ Meet up with friends ☐ Visiting the information centre ☐ Other, please detail:
If you answered 'Other' please detail

5. How long have you been visiting Ashdown Forest?

(Required) ☐ 6 months or less ☐ Between 6 months and 1 year ☐ Between 1 year and 3 years ☐ Between 3 years and 5 years ☐ Between 5 and 10 years ☐ More than 10 years ☐ Don't know / not sure

6. How long do you normally spend when you visit Ashdown Forest?

(Required) ☐ Less than 30 minutes ☐ Between 30 minutes and 1 hour ☐ Between 1 hour to 2 hours ☐ Between 2 hours to 3 hours ☐ More than 3 hours ☐ Don't know / not sure

7. In the past year, roughly how often have you visited Ashdown Forest? (Choose the closest answer)

(Required) ☐ Daily ☐ Most days (180+ visits) ☐ 1 to 3 times a week (40-180 visits) ☐ 2 to 3 times per month (15-40 visits) ☐ Once a month (6-15 visits) ☐ Less than once a month (2-5 visits) ☐ Don't know ☐ First visit ☐ Other, please detail

If you answered 'Other', please detail

8. Has the coronavirus pandemic changed how often you visit Ashdown Forest?

(Required) ☐ No, visiting the same as before ☐ Yes, visiting more ☐ Yes, visiting less ☐ Don't know

9. Do you think your visits to Ashdown Forest will change in the future?

(Required) ☐ No, will visit the same as before ☐ Yes, will visit more often ☐ Yes, will visit less often ☐ Don't know

10. "Ashdown Forest requires increased funding to be managed as a place of public amenity and nature conservation." How far do you agree or disagree with this statement?

(Required) ☐ Agree strongly ☐ Agree slightly ☐ Disagree slightly ☐ Disagree strongly ☐ Don't know/not sure

11. After reading why the Conservators of Ashdown Forest are considering introducing a car park charging scheme, do you:

(Required) ☐ Agree strongly? ☐ Agree slightly? ☐ Disagree slightly? ☐ Disagree strongly? ☐ Don't know/not sure

12. After reading about the need to increase the budget of Ashdown Forest to keep it open and safe for visitors and ensure its protection, do you feel the proposed rates for proposed car park charges are:

(Required) ☐ Too high? ☐ A bit high? ☐ About right? ☐ A bit low? ☐ Too low? ☐ Don't know/not sure

13. Do you feel the proposed rate of between £80 and £100 for any annual car park pass is:

(Required) ☐ Too high? ☐ A bit high? ☐ About right? ☐ A bit low? ☐ Too low? ☐ Don't know/not sure

We know that many people enjoy regular visits to Ashdown Forest, with over 60% of users visiting daily or weekly. Regular visitors may prefer to buy an annual parking pass. This would offer a discounted rate for parking and would be more convenient. The annual pass will cost £80 to £100. This represents a saving of between £14 and £24 a year for anyone visiting the Forest once a week for an hour, and more for anyone staying longer than an hour or visiting more than once a week.

14. How likely would you be to buy an annual parking pass?

We understand that visitors to Ashdown Forest would look at buying an annual parking pass in different ways and have a range of reasons for deciding to buy a pass or not to buy a pass.

(Required) ☐ Very likely? ☐ Quite likely? ☐ Not likely? ☐ Very unlikely? ☐ Don't know/not sure

15. Do you agree with the proposed placement and design of payment machines?

Payment for parking would be able to be made through payment machines located on five of the largest and busiest car parks using credit cards and smart phones, by using a smart phone-based app, and through a website.

To reduce theft, cash payments are not proposed, in common with the practice in many other rural locations.

(Required) ☐ Agree strongly? ☐ Agree slightly? ☐ Disagree slightly? ☐ Disagree strongly? ☐ Don't know/not sure

16. Do you agree with the days and times when it is proposed that charges would apply?

Charges would apply every day (Monday to Sunday), including bank holidays, during opening hours (6am to midnight).

(Required) ☐ Agree strongly? ☐ Agree slightly? ☐ Disagree slightly? ☐ Disagree strongly? ☐ Don't know/not sure