

Carpark consultation results and comments

We are seeking views from residents regarding potential change of restrictions to the village car park. Please let us know if you support no change to current restrictions or support a 2-hour parking restriction.

Answer Choices	Responses		
Support no change to current restrictions		74.48%	108
Support a 2 hour parking restriction		25.52%	37
Answered: 145 Skipped: 1	Response Total:		145

Against change to restrictions

Resident - Merchant Place

I am responding to the appeal made in Parish Newsletter.

I don't use the car park but live in Merchant Place which accommodates between 3 – 6 commuter vehicles most days.

I support option a) no change to current restrictions

– with the proviso that MBC continue to regularly enforce them. They seem to be issuing penalty notices about once a week at present which is deterring the long term occupants. A black VW which had been on site for a month was ticketed twice during October and, judging by the reaction of its owners when they turned up to find it wasn't there, eventually towed away. I haven't seen it since. During the 2 years in which MBC stopped enforcing restrictions the car park was:

- 1) used for several months as a used car lot with cars being delivered and taken away on a transporter.
- 2) used as a lorry park. One of which remained on site for 3 months.

A two hour restriction can only be enforced by issuing parking tickets. This means making people pay to use it. The most likely results:

- 1) shop and library staff will join the commuters parking on the streets
- 2) the cyclists who use the car park on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings will probably go elsewhere. Some residents may welcome that but it would mean a significant loss of business for cafe and bakery.
- 3) those who object to paying for parking will join the commuters and shop workers.

Resident

Leave as is or restrict to max 4 hrs

Resident

I am just responding to the note in the parish newsletter about the parking debate.

I really feel that a 2 hour restriction could be quite difficult for a number of people. I have a young family and this can easily exceed 2 hours once we have been to the library and doctor/shop etc. I fully agree that parking is a challenge, and I have certainly had times when I haven't found a space, but the additional worry about time would really make visiting the village harder and reduce the time spent there - which would be such a shame for many people.

I'm not sure what a solution would be, bar a small fee per hour? The level of side road parking I fear would increase and mean the village becomes quite overwhelmed with cars.

Resident

I am responding to the question regarding Marden car park in the Marden Parish Council newsletter.

As we are a bit away from the centre of the village I often use the car park to take my kids to the library. We also sometimes park there in order to go to the playground and the support the local shops and the Old Post Office. Limiting the parking to two hours would significantly impact the ability to do this as we can sometimes be there for the morning.

Having said that, I have never been at the car park and been unable to find a parking spot. Most of the time that I am there it is not even half full. Therefore it would be interesting to know if there are particular times or days when this is an issue?

Resident – Maidstone Road

Just responding to the marden car park article in the parish newsletter.

I would support NO change to the current restrictions.

I think this would just encourage people to park for longer in the roads around the village where it is already over crowded with cars.

Fundamentally the car park does not support the increasing number of residents in the village.

Resident

I would like to confirm my support for no change to the current parking restrictions in Marden Car park. As the article in the Newsletter quite rightly mentions, a 2 hour restriction would lead to longer term parking moving into nearby roads where there are no restrictions.

As an example, there have been more cars parking round Lucks Way, Meades Close and Sovereigns Way where there are currently no restrictions or yellow lines, particularly as we are so close to the industrial estate, the station and the school.

Is there an option to create more parking for workers on the industrial estate and/or add additional yellow lines on the housing estate?

Resident – Haffenden close

Having just read the latest issue of the Parish Magazine, I am responding to the requests for comments on the potential changes to the parking restrictions.

As a resident of Haffenden Close I would support no change to the existing restrictions, the proposal to change to 2 hour parking would impact greatly on our Close which already suffers from commuter parking, sometimes to the extent that we are unable to find a parking space for ourselves during the day.

Resident

The only place in Marden that parking is allowed for longer periods which doesn't impact residents or clog up the village centre causing traffic hold ups.

Resident

Roundel way and related residential streets are already home to substantial parking by rail commuters, overflow parking from Rookery court as well as excess residents' cars. Putting further restrictions on the library car park would simply push the parking into surrounding roads. How about putting another restriction on the library car park say 5-5.30 to future deter later rail commuters?

Resident

I often drive into village and spend more than 2 hours there

Resident

Marden is a vibrant village with lots going on - for people like me who live out of the village we would be further penalised in joining in village events if Parking was restricted or became an issue. A lot of the parking difficulties arise from visitors particularly cyclists who use the car park and I would not wish to restrict them as they do bring a lot of business to

local shops and cafe - but is there any way additional parking for them could be negotiated with local businesses especially at the weekend . I think this is going to be a no win situation but I do think more rules or restrictions will end up being counterproductive. Thanks for seeking our views

Resident

Restricting parking to two hours will result in more on street parking where there are no restrictions.

Resident

If you start posing restrictions local roads will then get clogged up. There are more people that live in the village and so obviously it's going to be busier.

Resident

Agree no change to current restrictions as Sutton Forge does not seem to have all day parking (eg commuters) This may be due to different working conditions/trains. Short parking eg shops does happen - important for Chemist prescriptions and shops..

Resident

2 hour restriction would force more cars on to local roads and be difficult for those who work in the village.

Resident

The two hour restriction would push more parking on to nearby roads, which is already an option for people who cannot park in the car park so I can not see that it would help to increase the restrictions.

Resident

A local resident parking permit which has to be displayed would be better. Then parking for non - parishioners could be chargeable or restricted to 2 hours. Many people travel in from Loose/Maidstone to commute, rather than pay in Staplehurst. This takes our spaces. I live outside the village and often struggle to find somewhere to park.

Resident

I regularly use the car park and rarely have an issue with finding a space.

Resident

We should encourage use of car park for touring cyclists, walkers etc and they will use our cafes and pubs and shops and generate support for village businesses. There should be current restriction only to prevent morning commuters, otherwise no limit.

Resident

We have never had any issues parking when we need to - literally ALWAYS can find a space when needed and we park here to go to the shop to head over to the park so it's not long but for those needing to park there for work a two hour restriction would cause issues for them so I agree to keep things as they always have been

Resident

A 2 hour restriction in the car park would just make the parking situation on village roads even worse. With all of the additional people using village facilities, there is a need for additional parking, not restrictions on existing parking.

Resident

Lots of local people who use the car park incl myself have young children, they go to the library, playground, park etc - they definitely need more than 2 hours!

Resident

A 2 hour restriction could badly affect local businesses, especially their employees. Keep things as they are. One of the biggest problems is caused by cycle clubs who park in the car park. There were 10 cars unloading bikes there on Tuesday morning this week. They rarely use local shops and do little to support the village.

Resident

I've never had difficulty finding a spot and there are plenty of other locations to park in around the village. I worry that this could have a detrimental effect on community activities including people who use it for volunteer work.

Resident

Why change? Parking is limited in the village - the car park is greatly needed! 2 hours will add pressure to in the streets

For change to restrictions

Resident

On reading through the local Parish Magazine, we have noted the item concerning Marden Car Park and would like to feedback our thoughts to you.

We give our support fully to a 2-hour parking restriction as we have been one of the many that have been unable to park in order that we can use and support our local shops.

If this restriction is brought into force, can we ensure that it will be a complete blanket restriction to include any clubs who use this as a meeting point i.e. cycling clubs, who will then cycle off and leave their cars parked for several hours.

We hope our comments will be helpful.

Resident – Campion way

We have been reading the parish newsletter and would like to show support for the idea recommended to support a 2 hour parking restriction at Marden car park.

It would be great to know if the issues around illegal parking (such as opposite junctions) that exist because of station access will be looked at at the same time. For example, would new yellow lines be considered simultaneously.

Resident

With regard to the Marden Car Park item in the latest Parish Council Newsletter, I would choose option “b”, a 2-hour parking restriction.

Resident

It is good as stops commuters parking for trains

Resident

We should not be letting commuters use the car park for the train station. However, the time limit is too short. 4-5 hours would be more agreeable.

Resident

After trying to find a space and all we're full even disabled spaces occupied by non badge holders something needs to be done, and as options are limited I think the two hour limit is the easiest method of fixing the issue.

Resident

Support a 2 hour restriction or could increase this to 3 hours.

Resident

The 2 hours is a good idea to stop possible commuters using it to avoid paying. It could be that residents who need to park there could be issued with parking permit and that the 2 hour restriction is only between 6am and 6pm

Resident

Some people are parking at the Library and then commuting to London. So a 2 hours or 3 hours restriction will definitely help us to use the car park

Other comments

- Another parking area is needed due to additional houses built in Marden. Or move scout hut and extend existing car park
- Cycling clubs often take up about 10 spaces on several days per week - for hours on end.
- the 7.15 to 8.15 restrictions could be changed to a bit later to stop commuters who use slightly later trains. post covid commuting practice has changed. maybe an additional restriction later in the day or mid morning may help.
- Roundel way and related residential streets are already home to substantial parking by rail commuters, overflow parking from Rookery court as well as excess residents' cars. Putting further restrictions on the library car park would simply push the parking into surrounding roads. How about putting another restriction on the library car park say 5-5.30 to future deter later rail commuters?
- I believe people park here to avoid parking charges when using the station.
- Never had problems with finding space at the carp park. MORE FOOTPATH PLEASE

- We need tighter enforcement of parking restrictions on the hill up to the church whilst the current roadworks are being completed. Utterly ridiculous that someone parked by the temp bus stop all day today (no excuse as train car park was not full.) Put up ANPR cameras in library carpark and charge £30 per day if the registration number is not listed against a Marden Post Code and exceeds a stay of 30mins.
- The car park is a public car park for anyone to use per the restrictions advertised. Cllrs are wrong in thinking that its use should be restricted to local use - there is no rationale for this and this line of argument is faulty.
- I think there is a need for more free parking in the Village. I live in Maidstone road and, like many others, we are blighted by selfish commuters parking along by our houses causing stress and annoyance and even some danger as we then have to park opposite and partially block the road. We have no choice----they do !!!
- I can't see how a 2 hour limit could be enforced unless there is a full time warden or CCTV which is unlikely. At least the current system is enforced by occasional visits.
- Lots of (not local) cyclists leave their cars there for hours, taking up many spaces
- Would a ticket machine be required, which would confirm the time of parking, to ensure a 2 hour stay? Who would enforce it? We need to keep the commuters out!

- The issue is that cars will be parked on village roads to the detriment of residents and people who use the village. Commuters park on the village roads rather than use the station car park
- Could you not introduce a permit only exception to the 2hrs only for those who work locally?
- Remove all restrictions as the current restrictions just push commuters to park on the roads around the village. We need a 20mph speed limit through the whole village.
- Suggest that you survey the people who park there daily. What are they using the parking for? Working locally or catching a later train to London to work for the day?
- The two hour restriction would push more parking on to nearby roads, which is already an option for people who cannot park in the car park so I can not see that it would help to increase the restrictions.
- Issue resident and local workers parking permits
- Why not restrict to 2 hours FREE PARKING and charge for any longer say up to 4 hours, this would give people more time and generate some revenue for the upkeep of the car park?
- There was no other option to suggest something else. Why don't they just increase the restriction to 9.15am. A lot of commuters go into work later now given how flexible it's become after Covid. Some are dodging peak times on trains and parking later. Could free up spaces.
- Unfortunately neither of these will work all the time the village is being overcrowded with housing development. The current infrastructure including parking is woefully inadequate for the expanding village population.
- Marden's population has grown a lot in the past 5 or 6 years yet the number of car parking spaces has not. A 2 hour restriction is definitely insufficient eg to cover meetings with friends in Marden or some church functions. If MBC are willing/able to enforce it a longer parking restriction of, say, 6 hours might help.
- The village car park is attractive to train passengers who can manage the walk as the station is now so expensive. Not sure anything can change that. Could permits be issued to businesses to pass on to those staff who need more than 2 hours? Or too hard to police?
- We should encourage use of car park for touring cyclists, walkers etc and they will use our cafes and pubs and shops and generate support for village businesses. There

should be current restriction only to prevent morning commuters, otherwise no limit.

- Maybe do a 4 hour restriction?
- The car park is clearly being used by commuters to avoid charges at Station. I've often seen elderly folk struggling to find a space during the day. The restrictions on use between 7.15 & 8.15 needs to be stringently enforced with meaningful fines,
- I think making a 2 hour parking restriction is a good idea but it should be at lunch time so that people using the train dont get the train at 8.15 am
- Parking in Marden is horrendous! Driving down Goudhurst Road in the mornings, with cars often parked on both sides of the road or near "blind corners" between the Memorial Hall and West End Tavern making it very treacherous! How are we resolving this issue? Also, on Maidstone Road at the turn off near the Unicorn, where it basically becomes a one way road? Are we waiting for a fatal collision before we do something there? Maybe a give way/priority lane road sign?
- Putting restrictions in, as you said, would move the problem somewhere else. Stop new housing developments, there are just too many cars in the village-it can't cope.
- The village is growing with all the new houses so it's to be expected that there is extra demand for parking to access the shops and services. People also park here to walk and cycle and the only solution is to prepare other land for additional parking or have fewer users. The latter is of course not realistic in a growing village and country.
- I tried to park in the station at 2pm yesterday but there were no spaces. There's not adequate parking anymore since all the development. Maybe need to purchase a field on the other side of the line to make a car park.
- I did think a restriction would be a good idea if permits were available for people working locally but then its also visitors & people hiring or attending events at the vestry hall etc who would most likely need more than 2hrs too & it's not really feasible to provide permits for those
- The library car park only gets used by commuters because the privatised railway carpark is an utter rip off @ > £6 per day. That is the issue that need attending to. Railway carparks should never have been turned into a way of making money. MBC could reverse that .
- Commuters are even parking in the roads behind the car park and often block the entrance by the playing fields and Rookery Court making it difficult for any emergency vehicles and the dustcart.
- Perhaps change to 0830

- the village could also do with a speed limit of 20mph cars are driving to fast through the village
- I would really like to see more people use the often empty train car park at teatime instead of parking outside the shop and kebab takeaway to prevent the daily parking chaos between 4 - 9 every evening. Not sure if that is within the gift of MBC to have 2 hours free parking from 4pm? As far as the library car park is concerned I have no preference one way or other.
- 2 hour parking but after 5 pm it can be any time. I managed to find the last space last week. This woman drove up to me and said "it looks like you aren't going to work so could I have your space as I'll miss my train". I told her the station car park was 3/4 empty and to park there. It seems another tight commuter not wanting to pay for parking. Also I think it's a Wednesday morning when all the cyclists park there. Again taking up lots of spaces and not adding any financial contribution to the village.
- I would support 20mph restrictions through the village
- 2 hours is not very long if you are having lunch at the Unicorn or volunteering in the library
- If 2 hours is not sufficient for some then why not make it 3 or 4 hours
- Marden Village also needs a 20 mph speed limit for road safety. "20 is plenty" for
- Parking permits should be considered for residents without parking on their properties such as those living on the high street. This would surely relieve some parking spaces in the village car park.
- I think more frequent enforcement of the closure of the car park would potentially be beneficial. I often walk through the library car park and see cars parked there between 7.15 and 8.15am.
- If you are using the dentist, beauty salon or hairdressers you may need more than 2 hours. It will impact the businesses. Leave as it is but make no parking til 8.45 this will stop commuters using station.
- A 2 hour restriction in the car park would just make the parking situation on village roads even worse. With all of the additional people using village facilities, there is a need for additional parking, not restrictions on existing parking.
- The 2 hour restriction or extend the 7.15am-8.15am to later in the morning, for example 8am-9.30am. Commuters still park there after 8.15am.

- Please can there be more regular monitoring by MBC as I know commuters who park there 3 days a week every week and have not yet received any fines in over a year. They are always there before 7.15am and have never been caught.
- It makes sense to have a no parking restriction between 1.00pm and 2.00pm when a lot of the shops are closed for lunch. That would stop all commuter parking as many people now go to London on the first off peak train to save money and use the village car park for nothing. By then the station car park is full anyway so there isn't a lot of choice except roads or village car park.
- It's unfair to put yellow lines everywhere. Because of commuters irresponsibly parking in Chantry Road - I risk getting a ticket parking outside my own house. It should have been permits not yellow lines - the yellow lines haven't even solved the problem- it's just pushed the commuters further along Chantry Road!
- Increase no parking permitted to 9.00, will help prevent commuters taking up spaces
- Possibly put in place a parking restriction at another time of day as well as the 7.15- 8.15 to avoid commuters using the car park instead of paying at the station
- Could there not be a four hour restriction which would block the commuters who are coming in at 8.15, or how about the possibility of resident and employee permits for longer times.
- maybe provide a row of bays that are for maximum stay of 1 hr so there is a regular turnover of available spaces for users to pop to the library or post office? one of the main problems is that commuters use it for free parking and leave their cars there all day
- Have you considered a permit based system for people who can supply evidence that they live or work in the village? My grandmother has lived in the village for 50 years, she's now unable to walk into the village centre so regularly drives her car into the village, she wouldn't be able to do all she needs to in 2 hours, similarly I have a toddler who's not yet ready to walk into the centre of the village, 2 hours would shorten the amount of time we have to use the shops and park
- I often use the car park for stopping at the shops. It's incredibly difficult, particularly in the warmer months, to find a spot in the week. I often see cyclists returning to their cars and having meet ups here. This is incredibly selfish and unfair to those of us who work in the village and wish to support the local businesses by buying our lunch or using the postal services. If the situation doesn't change, I find myself and my colleagues are not very keen to continue using the village for this purpose. While on this topic, the times for no parking on the main street are not good. They target lunchtimes, and although designed to stop commuters, it punishes residents and those who work here. Why can't it be 2pm. 1:30 is unfair and unnecessary.

- Whenever I use this car park there always seems to be plenty of spaces. I think you would find more cars parked out on the road is blocking the flow of traffic through Morden and leading to the possibility of accidents
- As a nearby resident I am disgruntled by people leaving their cars outside and along my road for the day. This has at times prevented waste bins being emptied because of obstruction.

From Social Media

- 2hrs isn't long enough and would be expensive to enforce. How big a problem is the lack of spaces? If it's an occasional problem, then it's not worthy of a change and the risk of pushing the problem further down the road (literally!!!!)
- I think we should ask for more FOOTPATH around the village. It is impossible to walk with the pram to certain areas.
- Make it a 4 hour limit. That would still deter most commuters.
- Could they not introduce permits for those who work locally exempting them from the 2hr limit?
- I have filled it out - I agree with 20mph throughout the village
- Survey completed. Can the Parish Council follow this up in January 2023 to canvas views on introducing a blanket 20 mph maximum speed throughout the village?
-