

Appendix 3 – Consultation Responses

N.B. Some responses have been altered to remove personal or identifying information.

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Response</u>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-1	12/10/2024	<p>I am not against the idea of local authorities trying to raise funds to improve the services they offer but, in this case, I am and for several reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The country park is for the people and whilst I appreciate it could still be accessed by people; it will limit or restrict access for all of us to some extent. Users who access the park every day, once a week or once a month may be excluded from using the park as often as they may already or like to because they cannot afford to pay a parking fee each time they visit. 2. In an era where social well-being is more important/spoken about than ever, surely, we should be encouraging people to get out there and use the country park, not exclude them through the introduction of parking charges. 3. As a resident on the Spring Park estate neighbouring the country park, I also have serious concerns about the impact of paid parking for homeowners here. We saw it during COVID that people are very aware that the estate is here and that they can use it to park up and access the country park. The introduction of paid parking will only encourage people to use our estate as a free parking space and word of mouth will no doubt follow meaning further cars park will park here. 4. The impact on important groups such as Park Run and Junior Park run will be felt. Not just with runners but also with volunteers. Will those giving their time to volunteer really be prepared to pay a charge to park every week? <p>I find it quite worrying that it feels we're paying more council tax than ever before but receiving less for it.</p> <p>I understand that a large part of the council's budget is spent tackling social issues or mental health issues. Surely, helping people to get out there and use the country park is something that should be championed as something that can help that. Introducing parking charges will in the medium to longer term only make those issues worse.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-2	06/11/2024	<p>Having seen the attached Notice yesterday in Gedling Country Park I would like to find out if an annual parking permit is being considered. As a daily user of the park, who has to drive to get there, I would have objections to having to pay in the region of £700 a year to use the park, whilst pedestrian users of the park would pay nothing.</p> <p>Can you throw any light on whether an annual permit will be put in place.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-3	04/11/2024	<p>Struggling to find consultation information but I think a jump from nothing to £2 is excessive and as the report says you could lose customers. Why has. £1 charge not been mentioned as the people I have spoken to think that is a reasonable charge and you probably wouldn't lose as many visitors which would be a shame.</p> <p>Please acknowledge this as a response or pass to relevant person. There should be more information available rather than just a notice at the park where I don't carry anything to make a note plus I personally didn't see it. Is there proper consultation planned?</p>

CONSUL/OCT/RES-4	14/11/2024	<p>As a resident of Gedling Borough, I want to express my objection to the proposed charges. I live in Carlton and drive to Gedling Country Park twice a day to walk my two dogs. Even if both of these walks fall within the proposed 10 hour permitted period, this would amount to an annual charge of £730, which is a ridiculous levy on trying to be healthy. I already pay £2370 per annum in council tax, and would hope that using the park would be one of the services that I receive. If the council are short f funds, may I suggest having one or two audit controls on your senior employees, one of whom has been able to take over £1 million pounds of the public's money over many years without anyone noticing – it is truly shocking that no checks and measures were in place to highlight this issue much earlier. In addition, may I ask who consulted the residents of Gedling on the Installation of the Holocaust Memorial Garden at a cost, I understand, of in excess of £50,000? Does nobody on the local council realise that we already have the National Holocaust Memorial Centre in Nottinghamshire?</p> <p>I, like many others, will be parking on the neighbouring streets from January, much to the angst of the local residents, who I feel deeply sorry for. If you want to know the likely scale of this problem, just speak with the people who live near to Colwick Country Park.</p> <p>The Labour party, which I understand Gedling Borough Council represents, have been talking a lot about alleviating the pressure on the NHS by being proactive and encouraging people to live a healthier lifestyle. How will you achieve this if you are taxing their use of a local park to walk around that should be free to residents who live there. Parking every day, as I do, amounts to more than the membership at a local gym. You also need to take account of how many families take their children to use the play facilities. Have you considered the impact on families who are already under significant financial pressure? Many go to Gedling Country Park for the precise reason that it's free to park.</p> <p>If you are insistent on bringing in charges, surely an attempt needs to be made to differentiate between the casual user, who might go for a family walk at the weekend, and those who go every day. Rushcliffe Country Park acknowledges this issue, charging £55 per annum for a permit. Were you to take this pragmatic approach, I would be more than prepared to purchase such a permit.</p> <p>I do hope that the decision to enforce parking charges will be reconsidered. I really do not think that you have thought through the implications for many families and the impact that it will have on those living around the park. On many days the car park is full. It won't be in January!</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-5	15/11/2024	<p>Are there plans to make an annual car park permit, like the one in place at Rushcliffe Country Park, please?</p> <p>I'm thinking it may encourage regular users to purchase a permit, rather than pay potentially £62 per month. At that price, I can see the surrounding roads being full again, like they were before the extension car park was built.</p> <p>For your information, I am not a resident in the immediate vicinity but am very aware of the previous car parking issues.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-6	15/11/2024	I agree that the proposed charge is reasonable.

CONSUL/OCT/RES-7	15/11/2024	<p>I am emailing you to object to this plan. I am a poorly paid nurse working at university hospitals Nottingham as an hourly paid worker. I ran at GCP. Now i can no longer run I walk round it when I am not at work. This helps me keep fit and a lesser burden on the NHS. I am 59. Please do not place this further tax on me and my family. However, I believe operating a two-hour free ticketing, the same as Arnold town centre, would be reasonable.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-8	15/11/2024	<p>Personally, I feel that the £2 charge does represent good value for money provided that revenue generated is ringfenced for the park itself, and is not used for other services.</p> <p>Additionally, I feel that the council should look to work with local transport operators to increase public transport availability to travel to the park, and to highlight this option to park users. NCT service 61 is a fab option, offering direct travel for residents across the Borough. It would be great if the service was busy enough to the country park for NCT to consider offering the service using double-deckers - indeed the views across the hills and Lambley Dumbles could be used as a selling point to Borough residents and encourage further travel to other local attractions.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-9	15/11/2024	<p>I'm writing to provide my view on the consultation on the introduction of a £2 all day car parking charge at Gedling Country Park.</p> <p>Whilst I think introducing a fee is reasonable, given the costs needed to maintain the park, I am concerned on the impact on parkrun and junior parkrun, that the fee will have, particularly on volunteers. The parkruns provide an important service to the community, in helping to improve the physical and mental health of residents and therefore anything which provides a barrier to this is a bad. I would make two alternative suggestions; therefore, either start the all day parking at 10.15 on weekends OR allow parkrun volunteers to park for free.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-10	15/11/2024	<p>As a Gedling resident who visits Gedling Country Park almost daily, I oppose this change. It will draw people away from the country park AND create unnecessary congestion on the streets around it when people try to evade the parking charge. This is a totally unreasonable proposal.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-11	15/11/2024	<p>I agree that a fee should be paid by visitors to the park however the opportunity to get a season ticket should be considered. The machine should take cash and contactless. Another idea might be for everyone who buys a car parking ticket gets £1 off a drink or cake in the cafe. That would encourage usage/drive sales. The logistics of a two part ticket so half could be in the car and half given to the cafe maybe too expensive.</p>

CONSUL/OCT/RES-12	15/11/2024	<p>I am not against the charges, I think if the voluntary donation boxes are not working then definitely charge as long as monies are used wisely and put back into the park or surrounding areas.</p> <p>My biggest concern is, everyone visiting the park will start parking on the nearby estate. We saw this happening in Covid, and the estate was horrendous. People double parked and the roads are not wide enough for this especially if an ambulance or fire engine needed to get by.</p> <p>Also whilst you are looking at this, it would be good to look at adopting our roads on the estate, it still hasn't been adopted by the council. If they were adopted the double lines that have been put down could be enforced, meaning the council can charge fines for people not wanting to pay the carpark charges and choosing to park on the estate on the double yellows (win-win I say).</p> <p>The amount of money the council would have already off the odd random that's parks on the yellow lines now, would be eye-watering. I hope you take my thoughts into consideration; the council makes money, and the residents are happy best outcome I'd say.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-13	15/11/2024	<p>In response to your request for comments regarding Parking Fees at Gedling Country Park, in my opinion a fair charge would be £1.00 but for a maximum of two hours possibly with increasing charges for further lengths of time. I myself sometimes walk my dog at the country park but have to drive to get there. I am usually no longer than about 1 hour and feel that a £2.00 charge would be excessive.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-14	15/11/2024	<p>A parking charge introduction to the country park will detrimentally affect my family. We are a low-income family and there are not many places that you can go for exercise and leisure that are free access in Nottingham anymore. I have health issues that I am trying to overcome and a daily walk in the country park has helped me physically and mentally. It has been my daily safe space which allows me to escape from everyday life for a little while which allows me to be a better parent to my children who are on the autism spectrum. My children love to go for a walk in the park and look for wildlife. We wouldn't be able to afford to go to the park anymore, it sounds ridiculous that a £2 charge would cause this but over the time that I go to the park it would cost more than a gym membership. People mention that it is less than the price of a coffee, but I also can't afford to go out for coffee either and often have to make difficult decisions on the food, clothing, heating etc that we can buy. I don't like to think that others are struggling as we are, but I think there are probably quite a few. We were homeless as a family in temporary accommodation for almost 2 years recently and the park was really important for our wellbeing. Please don't take away access to a free leisure area for the people that really do need it. People who can afford to pay this each day can probably afford to go elsewhere but there really aren't many places left for people with no money to enjoy and immerse themselves in nature and is accessible when you struggle with mobility like me.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-15</p>	<p>15/11/2024</p>	<p>I am writing regarding the current proposal to implement parking charges at Gedling Country Park from January 2025. I am a regular participant and volunteer at both the Saturday morning 5K parkrun and Sunday morning junior parkrun so this will have an impact on me. It is unlikely that I will carry on doing so if it is necessary to pay a charge every time. I won't be the only person who will be affected by this additional cost.</p> <p>As this is still only a proposal at this time, would it be possible to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer free parking for volunteers? This works at other venues. For instance at Wollaton Park volunteers are given an official slip of paper which they then complete with their car registration number and date. This is then left visible on the dashboard. 2. Reconsider the mandatory charge and/or implement a reduced or waived parking charge for parkrun participants until say 10.30-11.00? This could be monitored by displaying a parkrun barcode in the windscreen, much like a parking ticket would be. This works well at other places. 3. Provide park runners with a specific discount code which is input into the ticket machine at the time of payment? Although I realise this may be tricky as calibrating a ticket machine to accept a unique code might be difficult or costly to set up. <p>I do understand why Gedling Borough Council is considering the implementation of parking charges and that hopefully any revenue would be used for maintaining the park areas. However, I think inevitably if these charges are enforced then participation at parkrun will decrease and the café could lose a lot of business.</p> <p>Parkrun is an initiative backed by the NHS so it would be a shame to limit accessibility to it, especially as patients are often encouraged by health care staff to try it. Parkrun provides many people not only with free access to sport but is also good for their general health and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>There is also the possibility that people will park in the local housing estate instead and walk in to Gedling Country Park thus causing problems for those residents. Or even use GCP less.</p> <p>Please consider my comments and suggestions when making any final decision on this proposal, which I do not support. I would be grateful if you could let me know the outcome of the proposal once it has been decided and reasons for taking that decision.</p>
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<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-16</p>	<p>15/11/2024</p>	<p>I am responding to the request for comments regarding the proposed introduction of a £2 charge for parking at GCP.</p> <p>I only visit the park about once a week, to take part in a health walk organized by GBC and always put £1 in the box for parking, unless I find myself "coinless". I am aware from an earlier article about this, however, that many visitors clearly do not contribute and understand the desire to institute a compulsory charge.</p> <p>Personally, I have no objection to a charge being brought in, especially if the proceeds will be used help maintain the parking area: the upper parking area, is currently in a very poor state. in places.....BUT:</p> <p>1) if payment is instituted, any machines MUST include the facility for card payment (with or without a cash option), as many people do not routinely carry cash these days. I have no objection to a "pay by phone" option as well but would object strongly to this being the ONLY means of payment, as happens in some car parks these days. Many, especially older, drivers do not "do" phone payments and, if required to set up an account and fiddle around making a payment, would probably just drive away.</p> <p>2) I wrote to the Council a couple of years ago about the excessive parking charges at Rufford Park (at the time £4, though now, I believe, £5). Charging £2, (or even £5), to park for a whole day seems reasonable, especially if a whole family is making the visit, but to charge these sums for short-term parking, say to walk a dog for 30 mins, is unacceptable and unfair and would preclude some people from using the park facilities. If charges are to be brought in at GCP may I suggest that EITHER there is a free period, of say 45-60 mins, OR that parking is charged according to the time spent parked, as at the local hospital car parks these days; with a sliding scale of charges, The starting charge could be either free, or £1, rising after 1, 2, 4 hours etc,. as is common in many carparks. I realize that this might involve setting up an ANPR system, again as at the hospitals, but if you need the income.....</p> <p>I look forward to reading about the outcome of your survey. I just hope that a wrong decision will not lead to many people stopping or reducing their useage of this wonderful, local facility that you have provided.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-17</p>	<p>15/11/2024</p>	<p>My wife and I use the park several times a week, both running and volunteering twice a week at parkrun, and walking at other times through the park. We often use the cafe which is a happy place.</p> <p>If you have to introduce a charge, I suggest that people like us should be offered a weekly or monthly (or even annual) pass, reflecting our regular use of the park.</p>

CONSUL/OCT/RES-18	15/11/2024	<p>My daughter who has 3 much loved, beautiful children with special needs and are very exhausting to care for. She works day and night to meet their needs, which any parent would. But needs chill out time for herself when they're at school.</p> <p>She uses our beautiful Gedling country park as her therapy. She walks there alone every day to re-focus, help with her mental health and re-energise herself. It's one of the most beautiful local free spaces in which to walk safely.</p> <p>There is no way she and others in a similar situation can afford £2 daily £56 a month!!</p> <p>The park is a lifeline to many who would struggle to afford a monthly gym membership to keep fit and help with mental health.</p> <p>This £2 a day parking is making a free to enter park, much more expensive than joining a gym, if you do go to the park every day, just like MANY people do.</p> <p>Please re consider this charge.</p> <p>You will be forcing a lot of local daily walkers, away from their own local park. My daughter always donates what she can in the voluntary collection box.</p> <p>As do other walkers.</p> <p>This is an unfair £2 charge. Please don't implement the charge, think of the people who will be in a really sad situation if you do. For those who can afford it should place their £2 in the voluntary collection box.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-19	15/11/2024	<p>I would like to register an objection to the proposed introduction of parking charges at GCP. I use the park on a regular basis to meet family and walk the dogs and this would represent an unwelcome additional cost which will deter me from using this fantastic facility. I believe that such a charge would detrimentally impact local residents.</p> <p>If the car park is being abused as a form of 'park and ride' then a system similar to other short stay car parks with 2 hours free could be implemented.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-20	15/11/2024	<p>I think a daily charge is reasonable, but it will hit those who live locally and use the park daily to walk the dog or exercise. I hope that the disabled parking will stay free or at least get 2 hours for free like at Wollaton Park.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-21	15/11/2024	<p>Parking charges are not really necessary IMO, all it'll do is drive people to the surrounding streets again like in lockdown. People can park where they like (legally, of course) but it just seems a bit pointless pushing people out onto the streets who do use the park 2/3/4 times a week. I know our dog walkers uses it at least 4 times a week, and there's no way she's going to park in the car park when you can just park on the nearby roads!</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-22	15/11/2024	<p>I'm writing to give my opinion on the proposed parking charges at Gedling Country Park. I will not be able to afford this on a regular basis. I visit with my disabled son to get him out the house so this will affect us in a negative way.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-23	15/11/2024	<p>I support the introduction of the £2 car parking charge. However I wish to add the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The money raised should be spent on the park • Consider introducing an annual pass - for example as is the case at Rushcliffe CP • Promotion of alternative means to access the park other than driving - Cycling, walking and bus - it may be for example that people aren't aware the park can now easily be accessed from the Bus No 60 terminus, not just the 61.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement measures to ensure people don't park on the nearby roads.
CONSUL/OCT/RES-24	15/11/2024	<p>I take my kids to the park a couple of times a week on the way home from school.</p> <p>We only stay for twenty minutes, just for the kids to burn some energy and get some fresh air before it's dark.</p> <p>I wouldn't think it's right to charge me a daily charge each time as if we were spending significant time there.</p> <p>I'd have to have visited several times before our total parking time started to get into 'hours' rather than 'minutes' and the cost would be prohibitive.</p> <p>If visitors only had to pay for more than an hour's stay it would be fairer and the local kids who rely on the park for their exercise and fresh air won't be penalised (by their families deciding to take them straight home instead).</p> <p>It will also be safer for them as otherwise parents will start parking on the local roads (as will everyone) to avoid the charge and accidents will happen.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-25	15/11/2024	<p>Just want to pass on my objections to the new proposed parking charges at Gedling Country Park. This is a very short-sighted choice. People will be discouraged from using the facilities at all or will park next to the houses causing problems with residents.</p> <p>I often pop there for some fresh air but can't afford £2 every time I visit. Why not have a free first 2 hours like other council car parks so that families can use the playground, and residents can actually visit the park? People in Arnold can do this if they want to use their local park and it seems unfair there should be a difference within the local borough. Even then the cafe will surely be out of business very quickly as people are rushing off to avoid a parking fine.</p> <p>I would question whether the cost of collecting parking fees, imposing parking fines and all the work entailed in dealing with complaints, challenges and court cases will be worthwhile for the amount which would be collected.</p> <p>At other parkrun venues there is a free window at that time on Saturdays, is this being considered? This is such a valuable community event, so good for everyone's physical and mental health. Why would you want to discourage people from attending?</p> <p>Access to the park from the Mapperley side is impossible on foot now so the park is difficult to access for many residents who wish to avoid the long detour down Spring Lane.</p> <p>I appreciate that hard choices must be made but this seems unfair to people who are struggling financially, they will simply be prevented from using the park at all.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-26</p>	<p>15/11/2024</p>	<p>As a daily user of the park to walk my dog a £2 charge would mean I would simply go elsewhere. Or in the interim I would park on local residential streets, which is what a lot of other people would do, causing problems on those housing estates near the park.</p> <p>You already used my council tax to create the park, so it seems unfair to then charge me to use it as well.</p> <p>I MAY be open to the thought of paying for an annual permit, as a daily user this would make more sense for me, but this would have to be very reasonably priced - for example £30 for the year (assuming this covers the cost of administering the scheme). You could offer this option as an alternative and see if you get much uptake.</p> <p>Yet another alternative would have been to add a park maintenance fee to the local houses when they were built. This is happening on new housing estates elsewhere in Nottinghamshire, but perhaps you were too short sighted to do this when building 3 new estates in the local vicinity of the park?</p> <p>If you ignore the locals comments and do this anyway, I suspect you'll have a beautiful park which will stand totally empty.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-27</p>	<p>15/11/2024</p>	<p>I understand that you are planning to introduce a mandatory charge for parking. I am against this for a number of reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop people using the park due to the cost, therefore affecting people's health and wellbeing. Is this the main aim of this parking charge - to cut the numbers of people using the park? 2. A lot of people just go for an hour for a dog walk/stroll/play in the park, especially in winter. Should be a subsidy cost for less than an hour or in winter. Expensive place to come for an hour and will not be an option for many low-income families 3. It is a fantastic place for kids - the play park and the walks are great for getting kids out. We have paid for these facilities with our council tax (which was a good way to spend the money), and now we have to pay to use them! 4.. It will encourage people to park in the surrounding streets, instead of using the car park. 5. It will stop people attending their local Parkruns Saturday and Sunday mornings. 6. With our NHS on the verge of collapse, we should be trying to encourage people with mental and social health issues to be out in these types of environments, not adding barriers to prevent them 7. Most Gedling car parks have 2 hours free parking for the shops. Why is shopping car parks more important than going for a walk? 8. All the green space we had in this area of Gedling has already been taken up by the new housing developments along with the new road. We are being charged to use the last little bit of green space left in this area 9. Historical importance of the site for future generations and past to remind us of the mining industries 10. Exploring other options to raise money for the upkeep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encourage voluntary assistance (more information and get schools, DofE involvement) - special events/fayres/kids activities during holidays, Santa events - other food options at times of year e.g. ice cream van, pizza van 11. Offer cheap yearly car park ticket of £20 for residents of Gedling.
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-28</p>	<p>16/11/2024</p>	<p>I am extremely upset by the news that a £2 all day parking charge may be introduced for Gedling Country Park. With the cost of living already through the roof I find this charge extremely sad! We use the</p>

		<p>park on a regular basis but won't be able to afford to do this once the charge has been implemented. The park is the only local place we have to feel we are getting away from the city and I consider this place extremely important in helping people get away from the hustle and bustle of daily life, which is important for supporting some people with their mental health. To impose this charge will have a negative impact on those people and some will have to withdraw it from their resources due to affordability, only allowing those with extra funds to benefit from this beautiful space. I ask you to take this into consideration when making your proposal.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-29	16/11/2024	<p>Kindly consider my queries in reference to the above mentioned :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was there a principle or criteria considered in the proposal for the £2 fees? 2. As per facebook discussion there are a lot of underprivileged families living in the surrounding areas who use the children's playground in the park for their weekly entertainment and exercise. This will negatively impact on their affordability of weekly/school holidays outings. 3. What would this income be budgeted for? Hopefully for the maintenance and upkeep of the park, not towards the council's deficits 4. What is the projected capital revenue ? 5. Will projected generated income balance the outlay of policing the whole system ? 6. Will it be a cash and card payment system ? Most people like myself use card only 7. Was consideration given to the loss of footfall in the cafe and the soon to open new coffee shop and restaurant at Spring Lane farm shop? 8. Making the first two hours free will assist regular dog walkers to use the cafe thus helping with continued footfall to generate business to perhaps mitigate losses to new competitor in the area ? <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I do not support £2 charges with no free two hours parking • I support and believe GBC should consider making the first two hours of parking free.
CONSUL/OCT/RES-30	16/11/2024	<p>Please dont start charging a parking fee. I come to this park every day with my child and I will stop attending if a parking fee is charged.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-31	16/11/2024	<p>Please could the charges include the option to purchase an annual pass for those of us that park there frequently? Concerned that the local streets will become the car park instead.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-32	16/11/2024	<p>I writing to express my opinions on the proposed car parking charges at GCP.</p> <p>As a dog owner (responsible),keen walker and runner I probably visit the park once, sometimes twice a day. Walking there is not feasible, although I live locally and obviously pay my council tax to the GBC.</p> <p>Most times I visit the park I and my friends will purchase a coffee to walk with and often a dog sausage.</p> <p>I don t understand why ' the two hour free' parking cannot be applied as for most, very regular park users this would exempt them from payment most days.</p> <p>I will not be able to use the park on a daily basis if I have to pay £2 per day; £14 at least per week; £56 at least per four weeks. I cannot express how much of a loss this will be to my physical and mental health.</p> <p>I would be happy to pay a charge once/ twice a week if we intend to be longer than the two hours but fear in the future I will not be able to use the park on such a regular basis.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-33</p>	<p>16/11/2024</p>	<p>I'm writing as part of the consultation regarding the proposed car parking charge which I think is extremely backwards.</p> <p>In a society where obesity and poor mental health are urgent problems, charging people £2 will mean the difference between getting fit and healthy or not at all. Some people use the park daily for the health and wellbeing, including dog walkers, runners, families with little ones, people who need this for their mental health. We should absolutely not be charging people to use our green spaces!!</p> <p>Please do not charge for the first two hours at the very minimum.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-34</p>	<p>16/11/2024</p>	<p>I despair at the thought of introducing car parking charges at Gedling Country. Why on earth would you deem it fit to try and deter people from using Gedling Country Park. The park has been an incredible success in giving local people the opportunity to get outdoors and exercise whether they be toddlers or pensioners. Being outdoors and exercising is a boon for mental health. Unfortunately the parks impact on the local population well being can not be measured and this seemingly cash grab may well end in other services the council has to pay for being requested ever more. Aside from the cash grab, bringing in parking charges will obviously affect the least well off in society and at a time when people are suffering more than ever. It will also encourage people to park on the roadside near the park upsetting people who live close by. The park is currently an oasis for everyone and I am a firm believer it should stay that way.</p> <p>Please go back to the drawing board for ideas on how you as a council balance your budget.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-35</p>	<p>16/11/2024</p>	<p>It is usual that a consultation on things such as parking fees can be located online and in public spaces to allow for a clear, accessible consultation on the subject.</p> <p>Can you please direct me to where I can feed back on this subject either online or in paper format so I can share with a group of very concerned Gedling residents.</p> <p>In the absence of a clearly accessible consultation process I would like to add objections to the proposed £2 parking fee at Gedling country park as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a risk of dangerous parking increasing in the area around the park. You only need to look at the surrounding street parking around Rushcliffe Country Park since the introduction of parking fines. Whilst we want to hope people don't put self interest above public risk and responsibility but we know they will. As a council this has to be considered sensibly within your consultation. 2. To increase parking from zero cost to £2 for the period is too much of a jump psychologically for the local residents and people will avoid the location (or see point 1). 3. If the purpose of this parking change is to increase revenue to the park I would propose a £1 per 10 hours charge for those who come and go all day with an ability to use the ticket throughout the day. I would also offer a second option to local residents to have a Gedling Country Park pass that is number plate registered and valid for 12 months from purchase. I think there would be appetite for people to pay up to £30 for this and would offer the guaranteed revenue you clearly seek.

		<p>I think charging your proposed amount immediately from a fee of £0 to £2 on top of the closure of fields adjacent to Hobbucks, is a strong negative statement from the council to disregard its commitment to wild spaces and accessible large green spaces in the area.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-36</p>	<p>16/11/2024</p>	<p>I wish to raise an objection to the proposal for fees to park at Gedling Country Park.</p> <p>Exercise is essential to keep people healthy and out of the NHS. You pay for social care out of your budget so restricting people from healthy pastimes is an odd choice.</p> <p>Dog walkers will be disproportionately affected, the fee will add up quickly.</p> <p>People will avoid the car park and clog up neighbouring streets and roads.</p> <p>Ultimately some people just won't use the park at all, preferring alternatives where parking is free.</p> <p>My suggestion would be to turn the honesty box digital. People don't carry cash now. It presumably costs you money to empty said box. Why not trial a card payment machine, similar to that in the Nottingham Contemporary, where you can make a set donation towards upkeep.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-37</p>	<p>16/11/2024</p>	<p>I have heard that you are thinking of introducing a £2 parking charge at Gedling Country Park and wanted to express my absolute disappointment if this was to go ahead. I and several of the people who visit the park are regular dog walkers and think introducing this would penalise the people who use the park the most and ultimately discourage people from visiting it which would be an absolute shame. Someone visiting every day to walk their dog would have to find £14 a week for the privilege so people will just stop going!</p> <p>I appreciate you need to earn money to keep the park maintained etc but is there not a way of doing it without penalising the people who use it the most? For example, let people have 2 hours free and then charge. Or charge an hourly rate of 50p as most people can get a nice walk done in an hour and seems a reasonable amount.</p> <p>Can I also ask how this is going to be handled? Would we have to find cash as NOBODY will always have this readily available! There absolutely needs to be an easy way of paying this! Maybe you could introduce an annual charge instead for local people who use it regularly and they can display something on their windscreens?</p> <p>I also have concerns for you that a lot of people will start parking illegally down the road away from the park entrance which could become dangerous and cause a lot of accidents as well as angering all the local residents.</p> <p>I really hope you take my comments on board and come to a better solution than just charging a flat £2 rate for every car parking at the park as I don't feel this is the best way forward and will have an impact on people visiting. I and my dog love coming to GCP and would both be very upset if we had to stop coming.</p> <p>Please, please, please reconsider!!!</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-38</p>	<p>16/11/2024</p>	<p>I do not agree with the new charges.</p> <p>I go for a 30-minute walk there most days and would not be able to do this should there be a charge.</p> <p>Maybe have it free before 9am and after 6pm.</p> <p>People will use the new estate streets for parking resulting in issues elsewhere.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-39</p>	<p>16/11/2024</p>	<p>I'd like to register my objection.</p> <p>I use the cash donation but if there was a contactless donation point, this would be more suitable.</p> <p>£2 each day I visit with the dogs and particularly in the summer months would deter me from visiting and spending in the coffee shop.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-40</p>	<p>17/11/2024</p>	<p>1. I think there are times when consideration should be given to exemptions. The Junior Parkrun takes place on a Sunday morning and introducing a charge will decrease the amount of children attending.</p> <p>Childhood obesity is a significant issue in Nottinghamshire, with rates that are higher than the national average: More than one in five children aged 4–5 are overweight or obese, and a third of children aged 10–11 are overweight or obese. Nottingham's rates are higher than the national average for both age groups.</p> <p>Being overweight or obese is a risk factor for many health issues, and obesity can reduce life expectancy by 10 years. Councils see parkruns and junior parkruns as helping them to increase physical activity rates in their local authority areas, which in turn helps improve health and wellbeing amongst their communities and ultimately manages or reduces the increasing costs of treating illnesses.</p> <p>Parkrun has many benefits for children, including: Physical activity: Children can improve their physical fitness, and many continue to be active outside of parkrun. Mental health: Parkrun can help children develop resilience and goal-setting skills, and can improve their mood through the release of endorphins. Socialization: Children can meet new friends and be part of a supportive community. Sense of belonging: Children can feel a sense of achievement and belonging to a community. Family time: Parkrun can strengthen family bonds and provide a chance for families to spend time together outdoors. Community connection: Families can feel more connected to their local community. Volunteering: Children can develop teamwork and other skills through volunteering.</p> <p>2. Another consideration is that there are many volunteers who support the junior park run, giving up their time to support the event, expecting them to pay for parking would be another deterrent for them. Without adequate volunteers the events could not take place.</p> <p>I suggest starting Car parking charges from 10am on a Sunday to allow children and their families the opportunity for fresh air and exercise.</p> <p>3. The parking fees will only affect the top car park, the Lambley Lane entrance park will not be included in this consultation and will continue to be free, hopefully that may help daily users. How does this provide fair and equitable access to people using the park.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-41</p>	<p>17/11/2024</p>	<p>I'm writing to object to the proposed parking charge at Gedling country park. I currently walk my dog there every day. We walk for around 20 minutes a day and as my dog is not great with traffic/pavement walking the park is the perfect place for me to take him and I'm so grateful to have it nearby and see it as a huge plus point of living in Mapperley. However, if I have to pay £2 to park there that would cost me around £60 per month to walk my dog! I would feel like this wonderful part of Mapperley that I enjoy every day would be taken away from me. Maybe the first hour could be free so that people like me could still enjoy the park?</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-42</p>	<p>17/11/2024</p>	<p>Re the consultation on the introduction of the £2 charge for the Gedling Country Park, please can I ask what support will be provided to the local residents when visitors inevitably park on residential streets instead? If your studies have suggested there will be no impact to those living nearby, I can only disagree in the strongest terms possible.</p> <p>If those leading the project have not done so already, I highly recommend that they liaise with the waste management team for their thoughts. Residents of estates nearby are regularly unable to have their bins collected already due to visitors parking on those roads on both sides of the road. Bin lorries are unable to reach the houses to make collections. In addition, there is the obvious health and safety risk presented by emergency service vehicles being unable to pass.</p> <p>The introduction of the charge if no further support for those residents is a genuine cause for concern and I wish to register my objection if the answer is that this is just a money raising initiative and local residents are to suffer.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-43</p>	<p>17/11/2024</p>	<p>I would like to comment on the proposed parking charges for Gedling Country Park.</p> <p>I feel that it would be beneficial to have free parking for 2 hours and then charges applied after this.</p> <p>Many people come to the park to improve mental health, fitness and spend time with their families. Grandparents and other carers come to the park regularly.</p> <p>Many people are on low incomes and rely on getting out in the fresh air as this is the only activity they can afford. Many elderly residents come to the park and people walking their dogs on a daily basis, many won't be able to afford the £2.00 charges.</p> <p>I visit the park 3 times a week it really helps my mental health. Since spending time on the park my mental health has improved. I'm so sad that I will not be able to come as often. £6.00 a week is just not affordable for me.</p> <p>Please, please take into consideration the points I have made.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-44</p>	<p>17/11/2024</p>	<p>This would stop us going for sure unfortunately I pay for so much already. Will just think twice if I have to pay to park. It's such a beautiful place for a walk and the health benefits both physical and mental I'm sure are worth the money the government will save in the long with less people having to be treated on the NHS. I'm sure a lot of pensioners use the park too would definitely suggest not charging them.</p> <p>If this is paying for the upkeep of the park and the money will actually go towards that then I probably wouldn't be so against the idea of car parking charges. But would be good to see where the money is spent in this case.</p>

CONSUL/OCT/RES-45	17/11/2024	<p>I attend every Sunday with my son for the junior park run. We are there for maximum of 20 mins.</p> <p>While I understand charges need to be put in place it seem extremely unfair to charge for what is a good free event, i haven't got extra money to afford £8/10 per month to pay for car parking.</p> <p>Is there scoop to allow free parking for the first 30mins/hour..</p> <p>Please acknowledge this email and put my thoughts through to planning.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-46	17/11/2024	<p>As a regular user of Gedling country park who lives in the Colwick area, the purposed charge of £2 is too much.</p> <p>Most of my visits are for a quick walk of 30 mins exercise or to take the kids for an hour run around and then park. The maximum time I've ever stayed at the park is 2hrs. £2 for an all day charge is way too much. No one stays all day. If you are to charge a lower option of 50p for 3 hours, this would help those that use the park for exercise or walking the dog. Nottingham has nothing to offer our children in the holidays except walks and parks and even this is no longer free. It costs us £6 to park at Rufford for a walk and play on the park, £9 for Sherwood pines for a walk, same with Wollaton, Ruddington and now Gedling country park. It costs a fortune to let the kids run around in green spaces these days and we are stopping the families from taking the kids out for an hour fresh air on weekends and holidays when there is nothing else for them to do in Nottinghamshire that is any fun.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-47	17/11/2024	<p>Please could I express my concern regarding the proposed car park charge for Gedling country park, I do feel that if a car park charge is applied then this will affect the amount of people who take part in Park run. I also think the charge will mean people will park on the nearby estate & this will affect residents parking.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-48	17/11/2024	<p>I'm providing my opinions for the consultation of paying for parking at Gedling country park (GCP).</p> <p>I go to GCP every week with my 2 year old, we use the play area, go on the animal trail walk and often use the cafe. We don't usually stay for longer than 1 1/2-2 hours max. If you were to charge us to use the children's play area for an hour, it would put us off and we would consider going to another free park. I think this would be a shame as I think paying for parking would cause the cafe to lose money as people use the cafe a lot when they go to the park with their kids, or just park for free and go to the cafe for lunch/ cake etc!</p> <p>If you were to introduce parking I think it should be free for the first 2 hours and people only pay if they are parking there all day.</p> <p>As a dietitian and there being an obesity crisis, I also think free open spaces for people to exercise in a city is important. I think the population of Nottingham have the right to go to open spaces to exercise for free. Paying would put people off going for a walk there or a run, or walking their dog for exercise if they had to pay, only adding to the populations already lack of activity/ obesity crisis.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-49</p>	<p>18/11/2024</p>	<p>I live nearby and wanted to understand what considerations and measures will be put in place to prevent people parking for free on the estate? There are already some double yellow lines, but most of the estate is unrestricted. I assume there will be measures in place to prevent this but wanted to raise this issue for consideration.</p> <p>I understand on the face of it the reason for the charge, to support the park. But would it not be a better solution just to add the ability to pay by card to the optional donation already in place, seeing as so few people carry cash? This would still raise funds for the park without the negative impacts on people who cannot afford to pay to visit regularly, or local residents such as myself if the result is people choose to park for free on the estate?</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-50</p>	<p>18/11/2024</p>	<p>I feel I need to write to object about proposed car parking fees at Gedling Country Park. I am not writing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. as a dog owner or 2. a grandparent wishing to take a child up to the park for a walk, to use the playground or actually let off some steam running along the paths learning about trees and shrubs, bug hunting and looking over our wonderful landscape into Gedling and Carlton (I've been lucky enough to do that with 2 grandsons) <p>I do use the country park for my well being, to clear my head, to walk - at 74 I take my car up to the top car parks on site as I find the walk from the Lambley Lane car park up the hill quite difficult (and in wet weather too muddy and slippery over the field) even though I live near that car park.</p> <p>No dog walker or grandparent spends more than an hour or two in the country park and especially the dog owners would be charged daily. I would suggest if you want to charge you do the same as the Carlton Square or Mapperley car parks and do free for 2 hours tickets and pay £1 - £3 thereafter. If Granny wants to take a child for a picnic TREAT on a lovely summer day I'm sure she'd be willing to pay an extra pound for a 3 hour visit to get them into fresh air away from tv's, utube, PlayStations etc.</p> <p>AND please, absolutely no "pay by card or app" only payment machines. I've never been inside Wollaton Hall car park since they were installed there - when I go I park on the streets nearby and you will find without a shadow of doubt that this will happen on the Country Park and I pity the home owners around there. Some of us prefer to use a coin and get a physical ticket to stick in the window. There are still lots of older people who don't understand, let alone, own a smart phone.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-51</p>	<p>18/11/2024</p>	<p>I would like to register my opposition to these proposed charges being implemented. I walk regularly here, with or without my dog, and see how popular and well attended it is. I strongly feel parking charges would encourage irresponsibility as individuals may choose to park on the roadside verges or in the adjacent housing estate. That is not acceptable for safety reasons or to local residents.</p> <p>Friends of mine regularly do the Park Run, which is a massively attended weekly event. Imagine if all of those cars decide to just park on the verges or block driveways up and down spring lane. It would be chaos.</p> <p>£2 per day / visit to the park is too high. If you go everyday, that soon adds up. Maybe 20p is a better idea?</p> <p>If you have to put charges in place, can an option be considered to pay by vehicle for a month / year at a time. A nominal £5 per annum? A sticker could be displayed in vehicle or, if it was managed via an App online an electronic receipt could be generated.</p> <p>Am aware of the pressures that are on the council to raise funds to support the upkeep of our open spaces and would like to see a sensible option arrived at, if you have to do this at all.</p> <p>Another, slightly less concerning option is the chance that an all day parking charge does encourage exactly that. People parking all day but, then taking a bus into Nottingham for work.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-52</p>	<p>18/11/2024</p>	<p>I am writing in response to the consultation on the introduction of a £2 all day car parking charge at Gedling Country Park.</p> <p>I do not have an issue with the charge being introduced, as a) the money can be put towards maintaining the park, b) the proposed charge is reasonable amount in my view compared to other similar parks, and c) it may encourage more active travel or use of buses.</p> <p>As a nearby resident however, I would like to voice my concern about the potential impact on nearby roads from visitors parking on the local estate to avoid paying the charge. This impact was seen during Covid, where the car park filled up regularly at GCP, meaning visitors would park on the estate. This meant that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The road was frequently difficult to get through due to double parking • The bin lorry was frequently unable to get down the road and collect bins. • Visitors were unable to park on the road. • I was concerned about e.g. access for fire engines. <p>I would like to see this being considered as a potential knock-on impact of the introduction of the charge.</p> <p>Something you might consider is a "season pass", such as that seen at Attenborough Nature Reserve, which would provide a significant cost saving to regular visitors, making them less likely to attempt to avoid the charges whilst still providing an income to the council.</p> <p>I would also like to know what the council will listen to local residents and respond if unintended adverse consequences result from the introduction of the scheme.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-53</p>	<p>19/11/2024</p>	<p>I am against charging for parking at Gedling Country Park. As a pensioner I would not see any extra benefit and would put me off visiting so I could use that money to pay for heating instead.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-54</p>	<p>19/11/2024</p>	<p>I wish to object to the proposal to introduce parking charge at Gedling Country Park. I live nearby. I use the park several times per week and as I live locally, I am fortunate to be able to walk easily to the park. However, I object to the proposal for the following reasons:-</p> <p>1:- Should charges be introduced, people will naturally try to avoid payment by parking on nearby roads. These roads are already full of residential parking and further pressure will make access difficult for residents.</p> <p>2:- The number of visitors is bound to decrease. It is a popular location, particularly for people with young children who meet up, go for a walk, and use the cafe and superb play area. A reduction in visitors would be a great pity considering the time and money it has taken to establish this wonderful facility.</p> <p>3:- The cafe is bound to see a drop in trade to the point where it will find it difficult to survive.</p> <p>4:- On a Saturday morning the parkrun attracts over 200 people. It is a popular parkrun location and people come from some distance to experience the superb park with its wonderful views of the area. The benefits of parkrun are well known, with people of all ages and abilities taking part and get together socially. Where parkrun takes place at locations where parking charges currently exist, the charges are waived for the duration of the run, say from 8.00am to 10.30am on a Saturday morning. After a run most parkrunners tend to leave.</p> <p>5:- The proposed £2 all day charge is not a fair charge. After all, who will pay £2 to stop for just an hour to have a coffee and play with the children in the popular play area? Some variation in the application of a charge would be more reasonable.</p> <p>I appreciate the need to increase revenue within the Borough, but I hope that you will reconsider the proposal for the reasons mentioned above. Should you need me to expand on any of the issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-55</p>	<p>19/11/2024</p>	<p>My Husband and myself currently walk at Gedling Country Park on average 5 days a week.</p> <p>This greatly helps with our general health and wellbeing and unfortunately, we have no alternative but to drive to the park as we live in Carlton, whereby there are no such facilities within walking distance.</p> <p>It is our assumption that we already pay for use of local amenities within our council tax payment. By introducing this parking fee it would increase our annual spend by approximately £500 per year, so therefore we would have no alternative but to stop using the park.</p> <p>This again benefits those residents who live locally to the parks e.g. Mapperley and Arnold areas who do not need to use transport to visit the parks within the Gedling Borough area. Although, we do feel that people who do live adjacent to the park may be unhappy as this parking fee will result in people parking on the local roads and housing estates, thus causing disruption for those residents.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-56</p>	<p>19/11/2024</p>	<p>Whatever system of payment is chosen, presumably someone has to be paid to check that people have done so, and/or there is a cost for barriers/technology to monitor. How much would that cost the Council?</p> <p>We are constantly being told by medics that we should be walking more to improve our physical and mental health, and thus reduce</p>

		<p>pressure and costs on the NHS. Why then discourage them from doing so by introducing a charge?</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-57</p>	<p>20/11/2024</p>	<p>With regards to the consultation on the proposed car parking charges I would like to register my objection to this.</p> <p>Introducing a charge to visit a country park might be what other cash-strapped councils have done, but (as I'm sure many of the respondents to this consultation will say) we already pay over the odds in council tax to you, and having free parking to access the outdoors should be included. We see very little benefit of course to the council tax you levy, apart from perhaps having the bins emptied, so taking away what is regarded as a perk will be deeply unpopular.</p> <p>I appreciate that you would like to encourage more people to use active travel means to get to the park, however where it is situated on the top of a hill to most of the borough, means that that is just not practical to the majority of people. Those older folk, or those with small children would find this impractical to swap away from their vehicles.</p> <p>By all means do a similar parking charge scheme that you have in the majority of your other car parks with a free 2-hour option, then a £2 charge after that, and free after say 6pm. Alternatively could you arrange an annual parking pass for say £10/year that Gedling residents could get, whereas people from outside of the borough have to then pay the parking charge.</p> <p>A lot of the work carried out in the park is done by the 'Friends of' group, so you have a pool of willing volunteers to carry out work that would otherwise have to be funded. I appreciate that materials and professional services such as tree work requires funding, but surely as part of your remit as a local council this should be included in your budgets. With central government funding having been slashed over recent years, your budget is squeezed excessively, however this extra charge would be deeply unpopular with voters, and I would request that you try to find a solution that doesn't add further burden upon us.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-58</p>	<p>21/11/2024</p>	<p>As a resident of Gedling Borough, I feel very strongly that the green space of Gedling Country Park should continue in its existing state.</p> <p>From a personal point of view, as someone with serious health issues, the park currently allows me to exercise and enjoy the nature and outdoors, several times each week. Should you impose a parking charge, I will have to find an alternative venue.</p> <p>Please consider how this would impact on the lives of so many local people.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-59</p>	<p>22/11/2024</p>	<p>I live in Woodthorpe and walk my dog in the Country Park with friends two to three times a week.</p> <p>We also use the cafe and have a drink and food twice a week.</p> <p>I am really disappointed at the news that you are going to charge for parking here. If this comes into practice we will not be visiting regularly, and when we do visit we probably won't use the cafe if we have to pay for parking.</p> <p>If a two hour free parking were brought in, this would not penalise the local community who use this regularly to walk their dogs and meet up with friends.</p> <p>If you bring in charges at all times it will be detrimental to the regular community that has been established at the Country Park since it has opened, and will definitely have a negative effect on the business at the cafe.</p> <p>In a world where we are meant to be encouraging outdoor activities and meeting up with friends for wellbeing, this is working against these principles.</p> <p>I hope you will re-consider your proposal.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-60</p>	<p>22/11/2024</p>	<p>I am NOT in support of this. I live locally yet too far to walk, so I drive, most days, in order to walk my dogs for approximately 1.5hours. It also does my emotional and mental well-being the world of good, as it is entirely different to walking along the streets.</p> <p>A £2 charge per day would take away the ability of myself and many other local residents who use this daily for dog walks and short wellbeing walks, which would have a negative impact on usage, wellbeing, happiness and take away this wonderful 'free' facility. It will also likely impact on the revenue of the little cafe as those who do go will likely spend their money on parking instead of a drink.</p> <p>It may also mean the play park becomes inaccessible to children, whose parents cannot afford the regular £2 fee, and this would be such a shame. Exercise and outdoors is wonderful, and it penalises the regular users.</p> <p>My proposal would be either the first 2 hours free, like other car parks in the Gedling borough area, e.g next to St George's Park in Arnold, or a year long season ticket for residents in gedling borough, perhaps £30-40 a year.</p> <p>Once a charge is introduced it'll likely creep up and up. Please don't do it. Please pride yourself on keeping it free, helping to support the mental well-being of the local population and helping to therefore reduce pressure on GPs and health services.</p> <p>Why not introduce a card voluntary donation point like the coin box currently there (that could be easily missed)?</p>

CONSUL/OCT/RES-61	25/11/2024	<p>I would like to register my and my husbands concern regarding the above proposal</p> <p>This will alienate those in the community that are already struggling financially, and use this place as an important part of their mental health wellbeing or recovery</p> <p>Many people I know and work with as clients use this space daily and cannot afford a £14 tax to be added to their budgets, us included!</p> <p>This has always been a place of peace that so many of us in the community can use to connect to each other and to nature, and has been something that has made me proud to be a resident of Gedling</p> <p>If you really must charge, please consider using a MUCH more fair system than this:</p> <p>2 hours free for example, like every other car park in the area?</p> <p>50p an hour instead of £2</p> <p>The amount of people that use this park will reduce if you introduce charges at this height - 50p is manageable and fair</p> <p>Please, I urge you to reconsider this.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-62	26/11/2024	<p>A £2 all day car parking charge is alot for people to pay when they are only up at the park for only 1 hour or less. Its going to cause more problems with people parking on the roads, then the council will have to pay out for double yellow lines to be done! (more expence) Surely a £1 compulsory charge & not a voluntary charge would be better & would not look like you are being greedy.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-63	26/11/2024	<p>I was very disappointed to hear that you may be introducing an all day parking charge of £2.</p> <p>I'm hoping you would only expect people to pay this if they plan to stay beyond a two hour period, like the local retail outlet car parks eg free for first two hours and charges beyond that time.</p> <p>Most people attend the park for just an hour or so and it would make the park less appealing if you were charging for this privilege.</p> <p>Getting into nature is the one good thing that could be enjoyed for free after Covid, and it's so good for people's mental health ... which is particularly tough for a lot more people after COVID.</p> <p>Many people do park runs and people volunteer to support these events too. It would be very unfair to enforce these charges for all of these people if only visiting for up to two hours.</p> <p>You may see the road used more too, to avoid these charges and then it would cost more to lay yellow lines and cones to stop this.</p> <p>Not even taking into account how local residents would feel about this</p> <p>The cost of living is so high right now please think about how important it is to enjoy this outdoor space without additional parking charges.</p>
CONSUL/OCT/RES-64	26/11/2024	<p>I agree with the introduction of the £2 parking charge.</p> <p>I suggest for those people that use the park daily for excercise and dog walking you introduce monthly passes say for a charge of £30 or similar.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-65</p>	<p>27/11/2024</p>	<p>Seems /appears like a foregone conclusion, however people think.</p> <p>The council hope to raise £200,000 ,so maths at £2 a car =100,000 cars to visit the park. It makes me wonder how a figure was arrived at ,plus the cost of administering this guesstimation.</p> <p>The question also brings to mind HOW this collection will be raised, and of course will the proceeds of the monies collected would directly benefit the country park.</p> <p>With the previous statement in mind , a detailed account spent on maintenance of the park from the collection of the car park charges should be clearly visible.</p> <p>Whilst personally not opposing a charge I feel that a free two-hour slot like the local shopping car parks should be made available.</p> <p>The other consideration local parking on the new estates around the Gedling country park ,as before when covid struck people parked on the local roads/streets, this has to taken into account.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-66</p>	<p>28/11/2024</p>	<p>As a resident of the borough I do not believe that a car park charge should be imposed at Gedling country park My reasons for this are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. park run car parking should be free 2. The toilet facilities close really early even though the car park is open 3. A charge will lead to people parking on the nearby housing estates. <p>People should be encouraged to exercise in the open air ie walking around the country park is good exercise and not discouraged by a parking charge.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-67</p>	<p>29/11/2024</p>	<p>I am wanting to share my thoughts/ possible impact of introducing a charge when parking for consideration.</p> <p>The public then using other areas around the area to park such as the bypass pull in at the bottom gate/ currently waste land which is already busy.</p> <p>Also, an overflow of people parking on Chase Farm which would cause issues due to space available.</p> <p>Spring Lane being used and the estate at the top which has walking access to the park.</p> <p>I do not oppose the charge as recognise the benefit this will offer the space however I am very concerned about the impact on the local community.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-68</p>	<p>29/11/2024</p>	<p>Whilst we have no fundamental objection to the proposed introduction of a £2 charge at Gedling Country Park we do have very significant concerns about the likely knock on impact on the residential amenity of those who live near the park.</p> <p>The report assumes a potential 50% drop in vehicle numbers using the park if a charge is introduced. It refers to the introduction of the charge providing 'an incentive to encourage active travel and the use of public transport'.</p> <p>If a charge is introduced it is highly likely that many car users, either unwilling or unable to pay, will seek alternative parking on nearby roads outside local houses and resulting in safety and access issues for residents.</p> <p>There is no reference in the report to how this impact will be addressed and managed.</p> <p>There were chaotic scenes of cars blocking roads, footpaths and verges near the park during lockdown. Whilst the situation improved, with the availability of the second car park area, there are still examples of indiscriminate parking e.g on the verge and bend by the pedestrian access opposite the care home.</p> <p>There is no reference as to what steps will be taken to encourage alternatives to car use.</p> <p>If the Council wants to improve and encourage active travel there is a need to address traffic speed, the narrow, muddy, overgrown and poorly maintained nearby footpaths and cycling on footpaths. These issues do not create a safe environment for pedestrians.</p> <p>We would ask that the Council ensures the wider, knock on issues are actively addressed before any charge is implemented. There clearly needs to be an inter-agency approach to this.</p> <p>We understand that many people who use the park live outside Gedling. The Council must take steps to protect and safeguard the environment and amenity of nearby residents who will be impacted.</p> <p>If a charge is introduced then this should be ring fenced to improving and maintaining the Country Park and protecting the amenity of nearby residents.</p> <p>On the wider issue of how people make payments we would ask that all car parks retain a cash payment option. Not everyone has the ability or desire to use an app, card or phone call to pay for this type of charge.</p>
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<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-69</p>	<p>29/11/2024</p>	<p>While it doesn't seem like a great deal of money, the introduction of charges are likely to have a couple of effects.</p> <p>It may result in the reduction of users of the park. The park is a great space for families and dog walkers to visit, to exercise and to enjoy the cafe. Introducing the charges may deter visitors in favour of other free to visit sites i.e. Burntstump. This would negatively impact the cafe, reducing their trade and potentially resulting in a loss of jobs. It is anticipated in the proposal that the measures would result in a 50% reduction in cars, so it is not unreasonable to assume a similar impact on cafe takings.</p> <p>It would also discourage people pursuing outdoor activities and have a negative impact on physical and mental health, particularly on young people and the elderly. The park represented a lifeline to many during COVID to meet friends and loved ones. The park is also used by Park Runners weekly. Park Run is a free community event, open to all. A charge, even a small one, is likely to form a barrier to entry for some and would particularly be felt by the volunteers who ensure the event can run.</p> <p>There would be an adverse impact on the neighbouring properties. In an effort to avoid parking charges, it is likely people will instead park on the main road, causing traffic and safety issues, or on the neighbouring new build estates. It is understood that the council has not adopted the roads of these estates and therefore is not responsible for their upkeep, while making such a decision is likely to have a negative impact e.g. anti-social parking, increased potholes etc. While these roads are unadopted, it should not be on those homeowners to cover any additional costs of these measures.</p> <p>It is also noted that similar charges have been introduced at other locations. While the charge is currently low, it is likely to undergo regular reviews and increases. It is also noted that free parking for two hours remains in place in Arnold, Mapperley, and Carlton to support high streets and encourage shopping locally. A similar charging structure may be more appropriate to avoid the other issues highlighted.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-70</p>	<p>30/11/2024</p>	<p>Please reconsider the plans to introduce charging for the car parks at GCP. I regularly attend both parkrun on Saturday and volunteer at Junior parkrun on Sundays while my son runs. parkrun is such a fantastic movement and brings so many people together, introducing these charges will without doubt put people off coming, and will have a negative impact on people's health and well being.</p> <p>I understand budgets are tight but I'd urge you to look at a similar plan as there is in Carlton Square car park for example where you get the first hour or 2 free. My son and I often stay for a drink at the cafe after junior parkrun however if we are paying for parking we won't be able to do so as our own budget is also tight, therefore your revenue in the cafe will drop, and I know from speaking to other parents and runners that they will be forced to make the same decision.</p>

<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-71</p>	<p>30/11/2024</p>	<p>I am wholly against introducing car parking charges at Gedling Country Park. I am a frequent user of the park and often use it twice a day to walk my dog, I am not fortunate enough to live within walking distance of the park and I also have some mobility issues and other health concerns and therefore must use my car to make the journey to and from the park.</p> <p>I believe that you should continue to encourage the voluntary payment and possibly charging visitors a nominal fee if they do not live within the Gedling area, vehicles could register their vehicles as they do at the local waste site.</p> <p>A parking charge would certainly discriminate against visitors who live locally and can walk to the park and use it without incurring a charge and for those who have to drive there.</p> <p>Finances are difficult for many people and these charges will continue to restrict those who will struggle to afford the parking charge.</p> <p>Please do not adopt these awful taxes/charges.</p>
<p>CONSUL/OCT/RES-72</p>	<p>29/11/2024</p>	<p>We would be in favour of the introduction of a mandatory parking fee for the following reasons. 1. There is heavy use of the park by those travelling by car and parking there. The area around the carpark demands more maintenance as all the facilities are nearby. 2. We have never seen anyone making a voluntary payment there. 3. Now that many other venues with cafes and playgrounds e.g Sherwood Pines, Rufford Abbey, Sherwood Forest all charge we feel that some are travelling from further away, certainly outside Gedling. 4. The argument from those in the newer housing concerning people parking outside their houses is asking for a privilege beyond their rights. They need safe access etc in emergency, but cars are regularly parked everywhere in the borough. We regularly have cars parked on the side street next to our property whilst their owners take the bus to Nottingham or work or wherever, and across our drive whilst people post letters. In short, for the Gedling Country Park to flourish it needs money and a small parking charge is just a fraction of the cost of the coffee most buy on their visit.</p>