

Meeting Type: Full Council	Agenda Item: 15
Date of Meeting: 18 th March 2026	

OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Report Author: Cllr Ainsley	Purpose: Decision / Discussion / Update
Title: Formal Objection to Rutland County Council's Implementation of Increased Parking Charges	
<p>Background: Rutland County Council implemented revised off-street parking tariffs on 2 March 2026. Local traders have expressed significant concern and are coordinating both a petition and a joint letter of objection. Oakham Town Council has a duty to represent the interests of residents, businesses, and the wider town economy. Although the charges are already in force, the Council may still request a review, raise concerns through Scrutiny, and seek amendments to the current arrangements.</p> <p>Economic Impact Traders anticipate that the revised charges will adversely affect customer behaviour. Reported concerns include reduced footfall, shorter dwell times, and increased pressure on independent retailers.</p> <p>Town Centre Vitality Oakham's cultural programme, markets, and community events depend on accessible and affordable parking. Higher charges risk reducing participation and undermining efforts to strengthen Oakham's identity as a welcoming and vibrant market town.</p> <p>Accessibility Given Oakham's rural context, many residents and visitors rely on car access. The increased charges disproportionately affect older residents, individuals with mobility challenges, and lower-income households.</p> <p>Strategic Alignment The revised tariffs appear inconsistent with shared strategic aims to support economic resilience, cultural development, and the long-term vitality of Oakham's town centre.</p> <p>Engagement with Local Traders Oakham Town Council has been approached by traders who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering signatures for a petition. • Preparing a collective letter of objection. • Expressing concern that the new charges will harm trade and reduce town centre activity. <p>Supporting these representations is consistent with the Council's role as the representative body for Oakham's residents and business community.</p>	
<p>Proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Oakham Town Council formally objects to the increased parking charges implemented by RCC on 2 March 2026. 2. That the Council submits the formal objection set out in Appendix A. 3. That the Council approves the Scrutiny referral letter at Appendix B 4. That the Council expresses formal support for the collective objection being prepared by Oakham's traders. 5. That the Council requests a meeting with RCC to discuss alternative approaches that better support the sustainability of Oakham's town centre. 	

For completion by the office

<i>In Budget</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Spend Authorised</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Budget Header: Floral Displays</i>			<i>Amount:</i>
<i>Estimates</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Quotes</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Emergency Spend</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sole supplier</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Specialist</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>P.O.</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Invoice Checked</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Reason for spend:</i>			
<i>Legal Power:</i> <small>amend as necessary</small>		<i>Contract Finders</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	Supplier:		