

Appendix A – Formal Objection to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Environment and Communities

To: Councillor Christine Wise, Portfolio Holder for Transport, Environment and Communities

From: Oakham Town Council

Date: [Insert Date]

Subject: Objection to Increased Off-Street Parking Charges Implemented on 2 March 2026

Dear Councillor Wise,

Oakham Town Council objects to the increased off-street parking charges introduced by Rutland County Council on 2 March 2026.

The Council believes the new charges will have a detrimental impact on Oakham's economic vitality, cultural life, and accessibility. Local traders have expressed strong and widespread concern, which will be supported by a petition and a collective letter of objection.

The increased charges risk reducing footfall, discouraging short visits, and undermining the viability of independent businesses that form the backbone of Oakham's high street. Oakham's rural context means residents and visitors rely heavily on car access, and the new charges disproportionately affect those with limited mobility, older residents, and lower-income households.

The changes also conflict with ongoing efforts to strengthen Oakham's cultural offer and support town centre recovery.

Oakham Town Council urges Rutland County Council to review the impact of the new charges and to work collaboratively with local stakeholders to develop a more balanced and sustainable approach.

Yours sincerely,

[Chair / Mayor of Oakham Town Council]

On behalf of Oakham Town Council