

Email sent to Cllr Jennifer Warren (Portfolio Holder – Transport) and Cllr Stephen Shaw (Portfolio Holder – Finance) of Warwickshire County Council on 13th January 2026. Copied to County Councillors for Alcester, Henley, Southam and Shipston.

Dear Cllr Warren and Cllr Shaw

This email is sent jointly for and on behalf of:

Alcester Town Council

Beaudesert & Henley in Arden Joint Parish Council

Southam Town Council

Shipston Town Council

We are writing to you in your respective capacities as Portfolio Holders for Transport and Finance. We have copied the email to our respective County Councillors for information.

It has come to the attention of our respective councils that the proposed WCC Budget includes, in Appendix D of the Cabinet Papers from 11th December 2025, a proposal to “Introduce Pay and Display restrictions to address congestion and road safety concerns in Alcester, Atherstone, Henley-on-Arden, Shipston-on-Stour and Southam”.

We object to this significant change being introduced in this way and would ask for a response on the following points:

1. There has been no consultation on this proposal. The selection of towns and villages in Warwickshire appears to be random. Why have our communities been selected? We are advised that there are already Pay and Display restrictions in Atherstone, managed by North Warwickshire Borough Council, which does rather suggest that this list has not been produced from a position of accurate knowledge.
2. The proposal is stated to be required to address congestion and road safety concerns. Please can we see evidence of these concerns?
3. Please can we see evidence that the introduction of Pay and Display car parking will improve congestion?
4. Please provide details of which roads will be covered by the new restrictions in each community?
5. Please provide details of the costs associated with the introduction of Pay and Display parking in each settlement including Traffic Regulation Orders and parking meters? Please explain where these costs appear in the budget?

As a matter of principle, we strongly object to the introduction of Pay and Display car parking in our communities. Our objection is on the following grounds:

- A. Our High Street businesses are already struggling after Government policies have increased minimum wages, National Insurance and Business rates. Adding parking charges will likely reduce business, lead to more shop closures and deaden activity in what have until now been busy High Streets.
- B. Residents and visitors already often find it difficult to park in the free car parks - this will be exacerbated if there are on street parking charges because people will naturally try and park where there is no charge.

C. Our towns have a higher percentage of residents over 65 than nationally. Such residents find it convenient to park close to the shops, often just popping to the shops for short time. Parking charges would therefore fall more heavily on them.

We hope that you will see fit to withdraw this proposal from the Budget.

Yours sincerely

Vanessa Lowe
Town Clerk, Alcester Town Council

Lisa Cromwell
Parish Clerk & Proper Officer, Beaudesert & Henley in Arden JPC

Debbie Carro
Town Clerk, Southam Town Council

Emily Booth
Town Clerk, Shipston Town Council