

MARKET HILL PARKING

Following comments made by some residents recently on social media, it is worth explaining the background to the introduction of pay and display on Market Hill.

Pay & display parking restrictions on Market Hill were proposed and agreed by the Parking Working Group in 2018. This group consisted of councillors, local business people and residents. The recommendations made by the group for Market Hill and other areas form part of the Framlingham parking strategy which has been available to read on the Framlingham.com website since its approval by Framlingham Council.

Part of the work done by the working group was to collect information from both residents and local businesses about parking capacity, the way car parks are used and who uses them as well as to monitor car parking behaviour.

From the information gathered it was clear that there was serious abuse of parking regulations both on street and off street, relatively little enforcement of regulations by the police, a serious lack of parking capacity and a need for a town wide plan to resolve the problems. Many short-stay spaces were being taken by vehicles parked all day leaving few places for shoppers.

Something needed to be done! Parking enforcement has to be paid for and it was felt that the fairest way of doing this would be to make a modest charge for use of the car parks.

The introduction of county wide CPE (Civil Parking Enforcement) in 2019 made the situation worse as the police handed responsibility to the local authority who, due to the short notice, were not prepared for the task and the abuse of regulations worsened. During 2019 and the early part of 2020 the district and county authorities worked hard to put the correct measures in place and find the resources to implement CPE. This was achieved early in 2020.

BACKGROUND

The Framlingham parking strategy was discussed with SCDC prior to the merger with Waveney and accepted by them as part of the parking strategy for the newly formed East Suffolk Council. We would have to wait for East Suffolk to prepare and submit a parking order for the whole district but that was a compromise we had to make and that we accepted. This meant that implementation of changes in Framlingham would be delayed until the district was ready to implement off street changes across the whole district.

The introduction of pay & display for both Market Hill and The Elms was planned to go live at the same time. This was the sensible thing to do and we awaited advanced notice of a date for implementation. We still haven't received that notice. We also waited for a copy of publicity material explaining the changes in detail to the public. That hasn't arrived either. On the 20th November the Market Hill meter was switched on without our prior knowledge. We immediately made contact with East Suffolk and the next morning the meter was closed down again and will remain closed until the operational problems are sorted out to the satisfaction of both parties.

We have advised East Suffolk that we will work with them to sort out the operational problems and to resolve the differences we have with regard to some regulations introduced without our knowledge or agreement.

FRAMLINGHAM PARKING METERS
WHERE WE ARE NOW - 26.11.20

Fore Street car park is operating normally with the new pay and display regulations in place.

The Elms car park will shortly be operating the same system. In the meantime parking here is free subject to the advertised time restrictions.

Implementation of the new regulations in Market Hill has been suspended temporarily pending the signing of a legal agreement between East Suffolk Council and Framlingham Town Council which formally identifies which parking spaces are included in the scheme. Until then, parking here is free subject to the advertised time restrictions.

The 30 minute free parking option can be accessed when a registration number is entered directly into the machine or via the RingGo app. This free period is currently only available once a day for each vehicle in all car parks. We are seeking to have this changed to twice a day to make it easier for parents dropping off and collecting pupils for the primary school.

THE NEW CHARGES

Fore Street/The Elms	30mins	Free
	up to 2 hours	£1
	up to 4 hours	£2
	all day	£4
Market Hill	30 mins	Free
	up to 2 hours	£1
	No return for the following 4 hours	