SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice of Motion - Number 70

Councillor initiating: Cllr S Rideout

Committee: Full Council

Date of meeting: Monday 9 November 2026

Review car parking at our parks (specifically Victoria Park and Churchill Gardens) and develop a plan to ensure that those who are actually using the parks have space to park their cars.

Salisbury City Council has a responsibility for a number of parks in and around the City. Currently some of the car parks attached to the parks are totally free to use and are not monitored or enforced. This means that on a daily basis, the car parks are full of cars which are left all day and the owners are not actually using the parks. Victoria Park does have signs alerting people that they should only park for up to two hours, are only for those using the park and is not a South Wilts Grammar School car park. These notices are ignored. Churchill Gardens has no notices at all. Complaints have been received by residents wishing to use the parks, that they have not been able to park. This includes individuals and families wishing to use the amenities such as the tennis courts and skate park, visiting as social groups. Older people who have mobility issues meaning that they need to drive to the parks in order to gain some time in an outside space have found it very stressful when they have not been able to park. Volunteers who support the upkeep of and enhance Victoria Park, have also raised this as an issue. The local businesses operating within the park are also being negatively impacted. Churchill Gardens is our most disability friendly park, with smooth paths running throughout. A wheelchair user has contacted me to let me know that she is unable to use the park as there is no parking available to her on a regular basis. In fact, cars park on the banks, not just in the bays, please see images attached.

Currently I visit Victoria Park up to three mornings a week from 8 – 9am, and speak to people who are parking. By doing this I have been able to ensure that Wiltshire Council employees have been told by Wiltshire Council, that they are no longer allowed to use Victoria Park as their own personal car park when they go to work.

On a recent visit to Churchill Gardens on a wet Monday morning in October, I took the photographs attached of the car park. The only people actually in the park were our parks teams who were emptying bins, and one lady walking her dog. I asked her if she had

brought her car to the park and she told me that she had, but had not been able to park and was therefore parked in Tollgate Road!

Proposal:

1. Officers carry out a review of car parking in our local parks. Are people parking all day and not using the parks? Are the same vehicles parking in the parks every day? Are park users being negatively impacted on a regular basis?

2. Investigate ways in which those using the parks can be supported in being able to park, particularly those with mobility issues/disabilities. Can the two hours free of charge be enforced as stipulated in the signage at Victoria Park?

3. Is it feasible that after two hours free parking, a charge could be made to continue to park, in line with our other car park? This would ensure that those wishing to use the parks, would still have access to free parking.

4. Develop a system for ensuring businesses and groups such as The Friends of Victoria Park, are able to park free of charge for extended periods.

5. Initial findings to be shared with the environment committee and a full report and any proposals for implementation to be brought back to Full Council by the Head of Environment by 8th March 2027 for final decision by members.

I urge all Councillors to support this motion to support our residents in ensuring that they are able to care for their own physical and mental health by being able to access the local parks.











Councillor Signed:

Date: