

## **ALSAGER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **RESPONSE TO CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL FOLLOWING THE DECISION TO INTRODUCE CAR PARKING CHARGES ON FAIRVIEW CAR PARK, ALSAGER**

#### **Alsager Town Council Deplores Car Parking Charges on Fairview Car Park**

Alsager Town Councillors expressed their dismay and disappointment at the decision by Cheshire East Council to introduce car parking charges on Fairview Car Park from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

This decision, which also removes the provision for a free first 30 minutes, reneges on the commitment given to the people of Alsager by Councillor Brickhill at the recent consultation meeting. It would seem that no account has been taken of the community use of Fairview Car Park, nor the wishes expressed by the local residents and the business community, who feel that this vindicates their view that it was only a money making scheme which will be a tax on shoppers and the workplace.

The Town Council also understands that Cheshire East Council is considering giving 20 minutes free parking in the morning and afternoon period to accommodate parents with children at Highfields School. Highfields School finishes at 3.15pm but the Pre-School does not finish until 3.30pm. The Town Council is of the opinion that this new 20 minute period is inadequate and provision should be made for a longer period of charge free time.

In its Press Release Cheshire East Council is taking the credit for giving us all one more free Christmas parking. The Cabinet Minute categorically states that the reason charges are not to be introduced on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 as originally proposed is “to accommodate the period of time required for the acquisition and installation of car parking ticket machines”. Since there is no indication that charges could have come into operation earlier, why the SPIN?

Alsager Town Council understands that as a result of the material change to the Order there must now be a new 3 week period of consultation and urges Cheshire East to publicise the following information as quickly as possible.

- What are the dates of the new consultation period?
- How is it to be advertised locally?
- Details of how local residents/business community can respond with their views?

14<sup>th</sup> September 2009