

**Civil Parking Enforcement (off street)
Annual report - 2020/21**



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Introduction

Civil parking enforcement in Babergh commenced on 6 April 2020 following approval of the joint area parking management plan.

The partnership began amidst a national pandemic of Covid-19, resulting in most local shops and businesses being closed. Although a decision was made by Babergh District Council to temporarily cease charges for their car parks, the enforcement teams from West Suffolk and Ipswich Borough Council continued to provide a service.

On 1 June 2020, Babergh District Council reintroduced charging at all its off-street car parks. This also included the introduction of **MiPermit** – a virtual ticket option which allows a driver to purchase a ticket via an app or by phoning the telephone number on the tariff board.

The purpose of parking enforcement is primarily to tackle inconsiderate parking, keep traffic moving freely, freeing congested areas and keeping pedestrians safe. Enforcement creates a safer environment and reduces congestion which is harmful to the economy, local businesses and the environment.

Residents, businesses, shoppers, commuters and visitors have different parking needs and parking enforcement is required for the benefit of all road users.

Enforcement of our car parks is important, both to ensure turnover of vehicles and that car park users correctly pay and display or abide by the regulations and conditions, for instance, not exceeding the maximum stay period.



Enforcement

Uniformed Civil Enforcement Officers (formerly known as Traffic Wardens or Parking Attendants) enforce the parking regulations as set out in the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Traffic Regulation Orders.

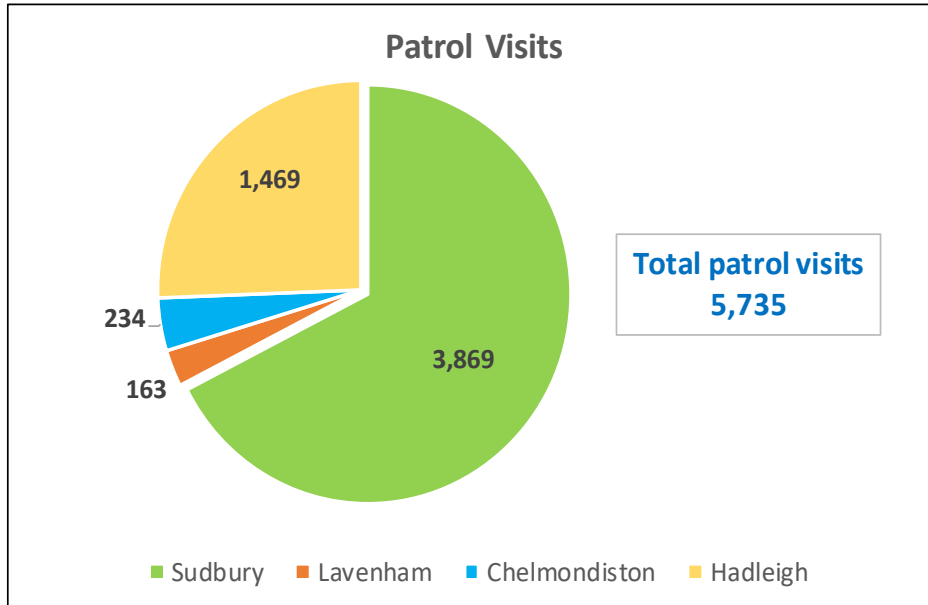
Civil Enforcement Officers carry out regular patrols across the district. A patrol location visit is recorded when a Civil Enforcement Officers registers their presence in a location using their handheld terminal device. The visit may have been part of the Civil Enforcement Officers assigned route for the day or in response to a report from a member of the public.

The locations the Civil Enforcement Officers visit must have Traffic Regulation Orders in force, these define what enforcement action can be taken. If a vehicle is parked in contravention of the restrictions, a Penalty Charge Notice can be issued.



Performance

The following tables and charts provide a summary of various performance measures for the year 6 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

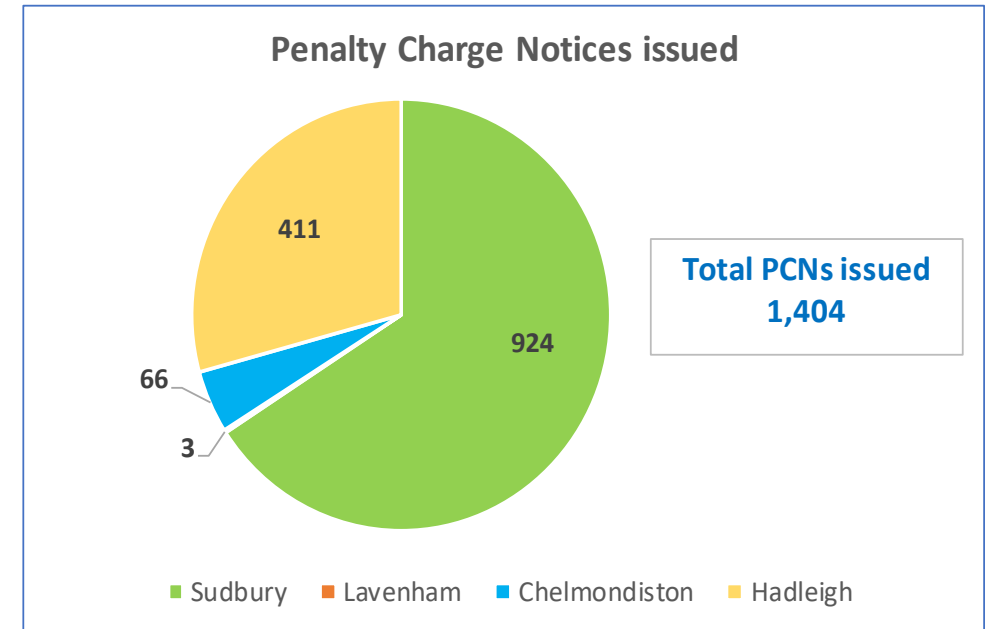


Car Park	Patrol Visits	Total PCNs Issued	Total Patrol Hours (hh:mm)
SUDBURY			
Ballingdon Car Park	128	5	02:42
Girling St Car Park	580	164	95:44
Gt Eastern Road Car Park	549	133	90:44
Mill Lane Car Park	116	11	03:01
North St Car Park	862	238	162:31
Station Road Car Park	702	216	127:02
Station Road Lorry Park Car Park	152	1	08:14
Stour St Car Park	97	2	02:29
The Station Car Park	591	154	71:41
Quay Lane Car Park	92	0	04:27
LAVENHAM			
Prentice St Car Park	82	1	03:04
The Cock Inn Car Park	81	2	10:55
CHELMONDISTON			
Pin Mill Car Park	234	66	47:41
HADLEIGH			
High Street Car Park	329	99	41:58
Magdalen Road Car Park (Long Stay)	350	107	43:41
Magdalen Road Car Park (Short Stay)	389	127	53:58
Maiden Way Car Park	190	22	11:31
Stonehouse Road Car Park	17	0	00:59
Toppesfield Hall Car Park	194	56	23:41
TOTAL	5,735	1,404	803:13

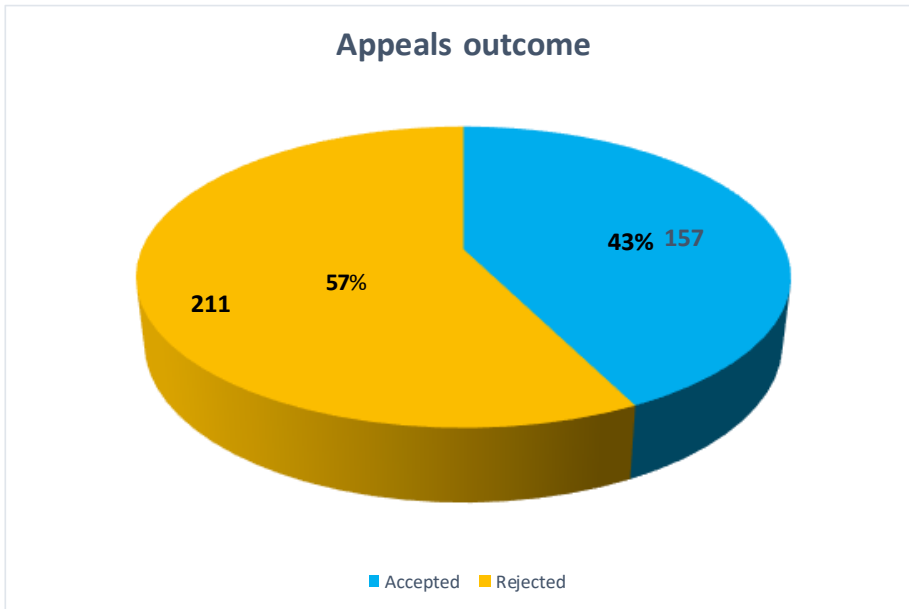
Penalty Charge Notice Representations, Appeals and Beyond

Any motorist who receives a Penalty Charge Notice is entitled to challenge its issue. The Traffic Management Act 2004 sets out a number of statutory grounds on which a Penalty Charge Notice may be challenged. In addition to the statutory grounds which, if established, require the Council to cancel liability for a penalty charge, a large number of motorists contact the council offering mitigating circumstances which they hope will lead to cancellation of the penalty charge on discretionary grounds.

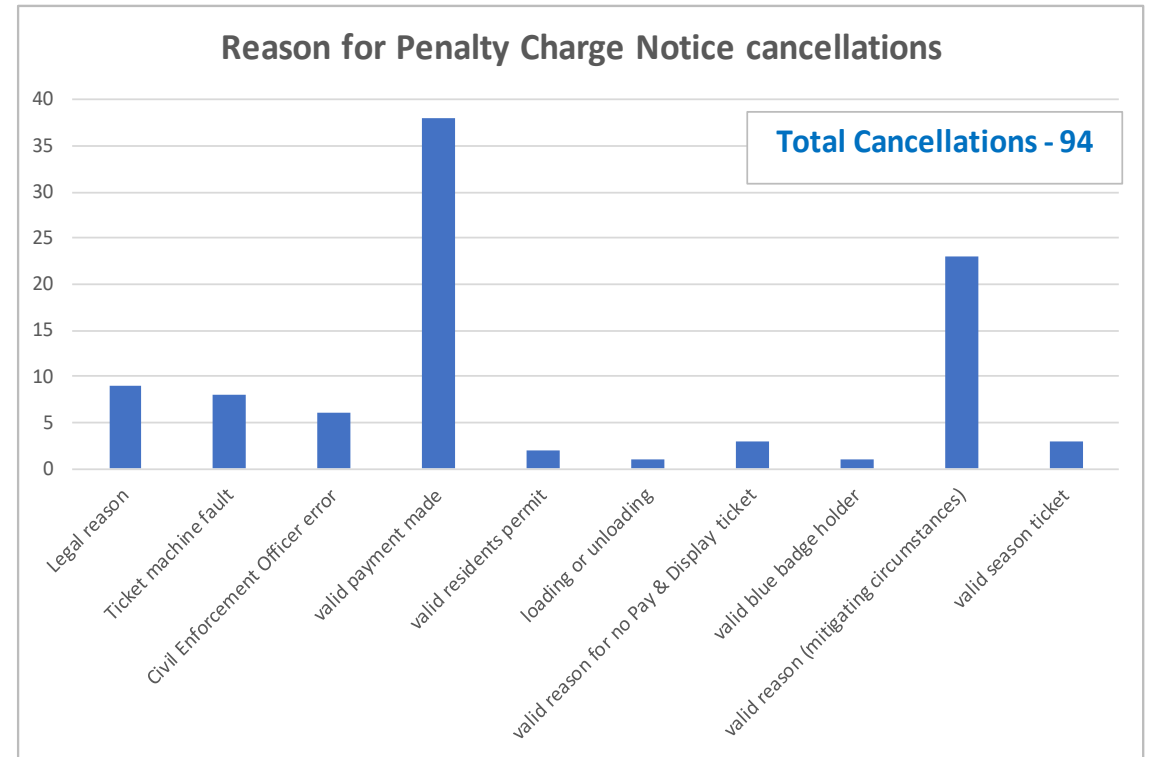
In June 2020, the Council changed systems for its provision of virtual tickets from Ringo to **MiPermit**. There was a period of apx 2-3 weeks when the two were running unintentionally alongside each other. The Council therefore agreed cancellations / appeals where it was clear drivers had paid for a virtual ticket on the old Ringo system.



Penalty Charge Notice Representations, Appeals and Beyond



Total appeals received - 368



Financial Performance

Income from car parking fees and Penalty Charge Notices (parking tickets) will be used to off set the cost of the full parking function.

During 2020/21, the income generated from Penalty Charge Notices totalled £31,267, a full breakdown of Penalty Charge Notices paid is outlined in the table below. Babergh District Council will use the income generated from Penalty Charge Notice's to help support the cost of running its parking service.

Income received from Penalty Charge Notices	
Jun-20	£525
Jul-20	£1,895
Aug-20	£2,260
Sep-20	£4,180
Oct-20	£4,735
Nov-20	£3,275
Dec-20	£3,160
Jan-21	£4,093
Feb-21	£3,679
Mar-21	£3,465
TOTAL	£31,267

Below is a breakdown of expenditure for the provision of the Civil Parking Enforcement function for 2020/21 including the initial set up costs.

	Total
Year 1 set up costs	£4,254
Expenditure inc employee costs	£72,649
Income	(£31,267)
Net expenditure / cost of running off street Civil Parking Enforcement	£45,636



- Patrol Visits
- Penalty Charge Notices issued
- Appeals received
- Appeals rejected
- Income collected from Penalty Charge Notices
- Expenditure
- **Net cost of Civil Parking Enforcement 2020/21**

Babergh

5,735

1,404

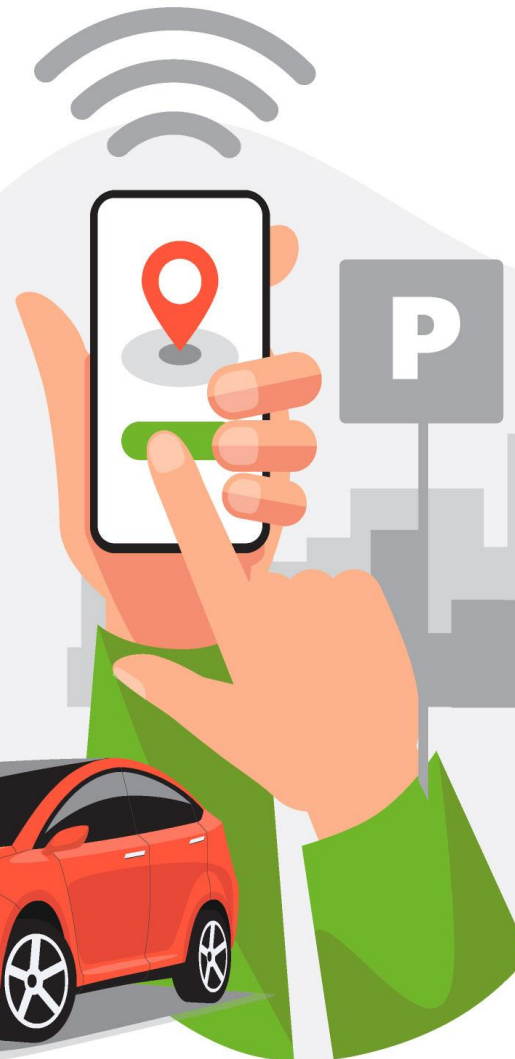
368

211

£31,267

£76,903

£45,636



Civil Parking Enforcement – one year on

Civil Enforcement Officer Testimonials

I had no illusion as to the Civil Enforcement Officer role and the possible issues the role might incur. I personally enjoy the role and challenges that it brings.

Helping and educating people is very rewarding and when the public thank you for your service, what you do and acknowledge that our role is not an easy one, is always nice.

A Penalty Charge Notice is a last resort.

Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as a Civil Enforcement Officer, I enjoy the role immensely, meeting members of the public, working within a great team, building an understanding with residents and businesses regarding parking. Great exercise too!

I think enforcement has helped to keep the high streets in the areas clear and has helped to educate drivers on where they can and can't park.



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