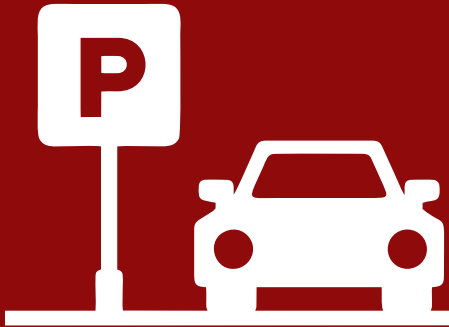




Civil Parking Enforcement (off street)
Annual report - 2020/21



Civil Parking Enforcement (off street)

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Introduction

Civil parking enforcement in Mid Suffolk 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 Mid Suffolk 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, Mid Suffolk 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.

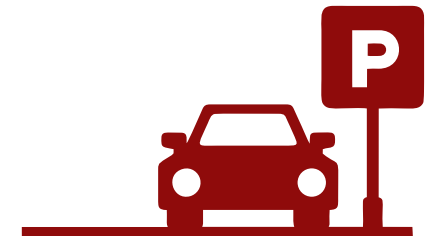


Enforcement

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.

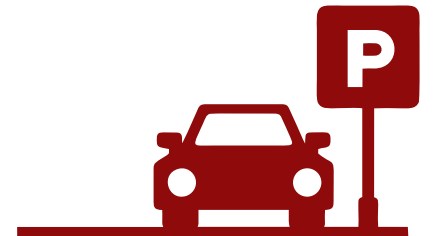


Performance

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

	Patrol Visits
Stowmarket	4,371
Needham Market	67
Eye	7
TOTAL	4,445

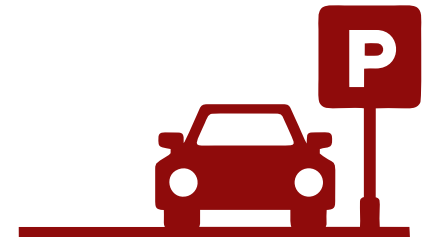
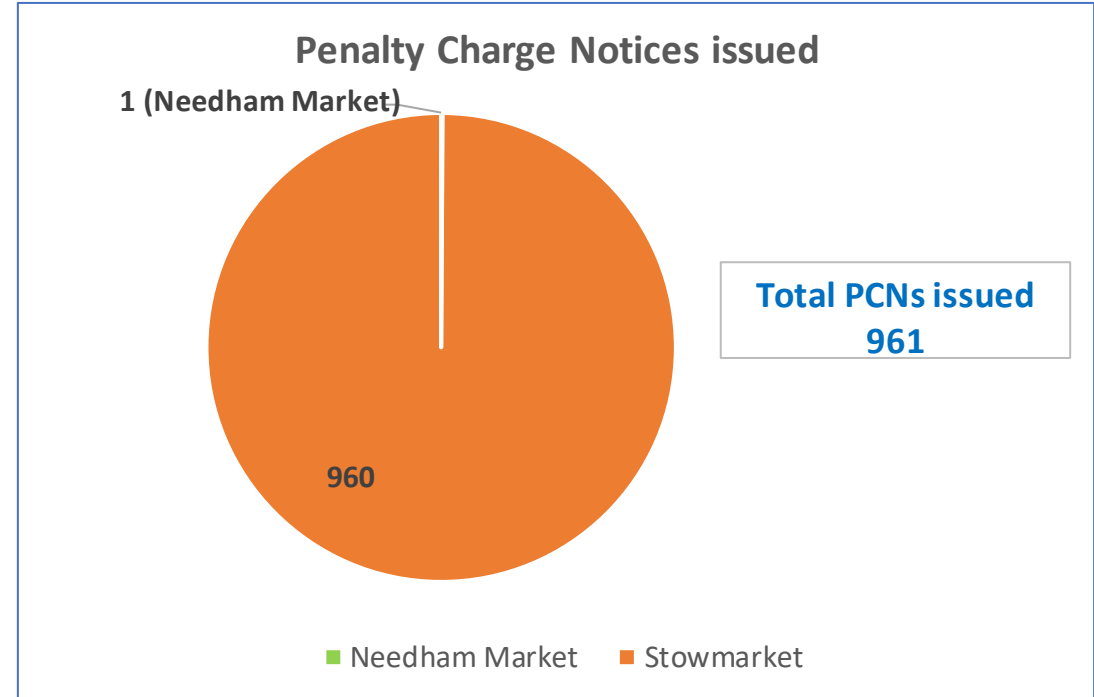
Car Park	Patrol visits	Total PCNs Issued	Total Patrol Hours (hh:mm)
STOWMARKET			
Bury St Car Park	705	90	83:30
Gipping Way Car Park	52	0	02:03
Iliffe Way Car Park	603	39	89:23
Ipswich St Car Park	482	116	66:09
Meadow Centre Car Park	807	300	187:11
Milton Road Car Park	784	273	175:10
Union St Car Park	428	22	22:02
Union St West Car Park	510	120	61:52
EYE			
Cross St Car Park	4	0	00:24
Buckshorn Lane Car Park	3	0	00:01
NEEDHAM MARKET			
Hurstlea Road Car Park	14	0	03:40
Station yard Car Park	53	1	07:42
TOTAL	445	961	699:13



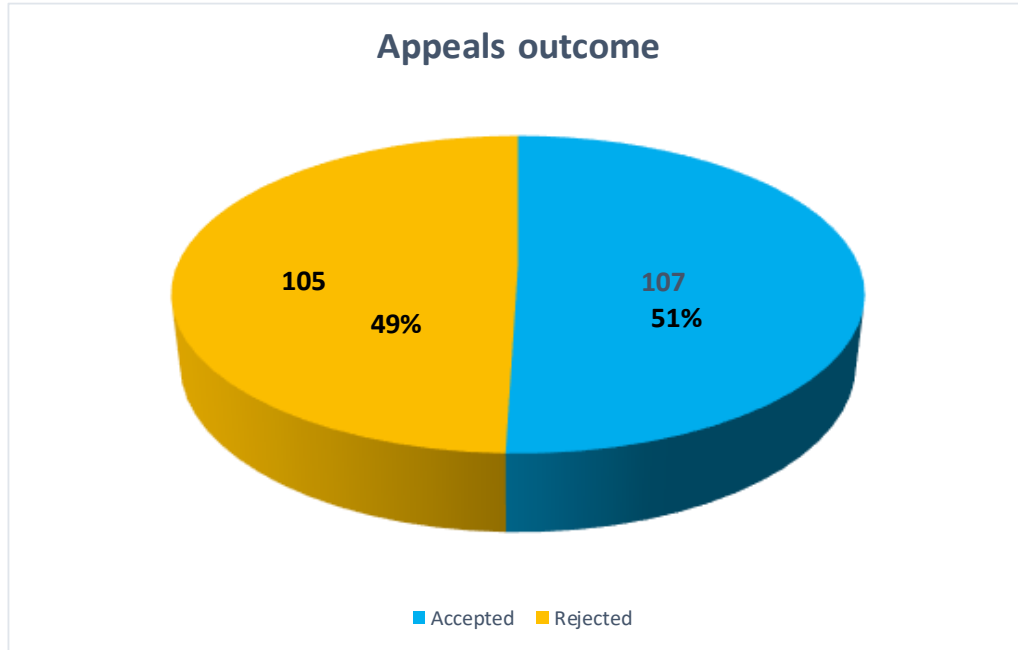
Penalty Charge Notice Representations, Appeals and Beyond

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.

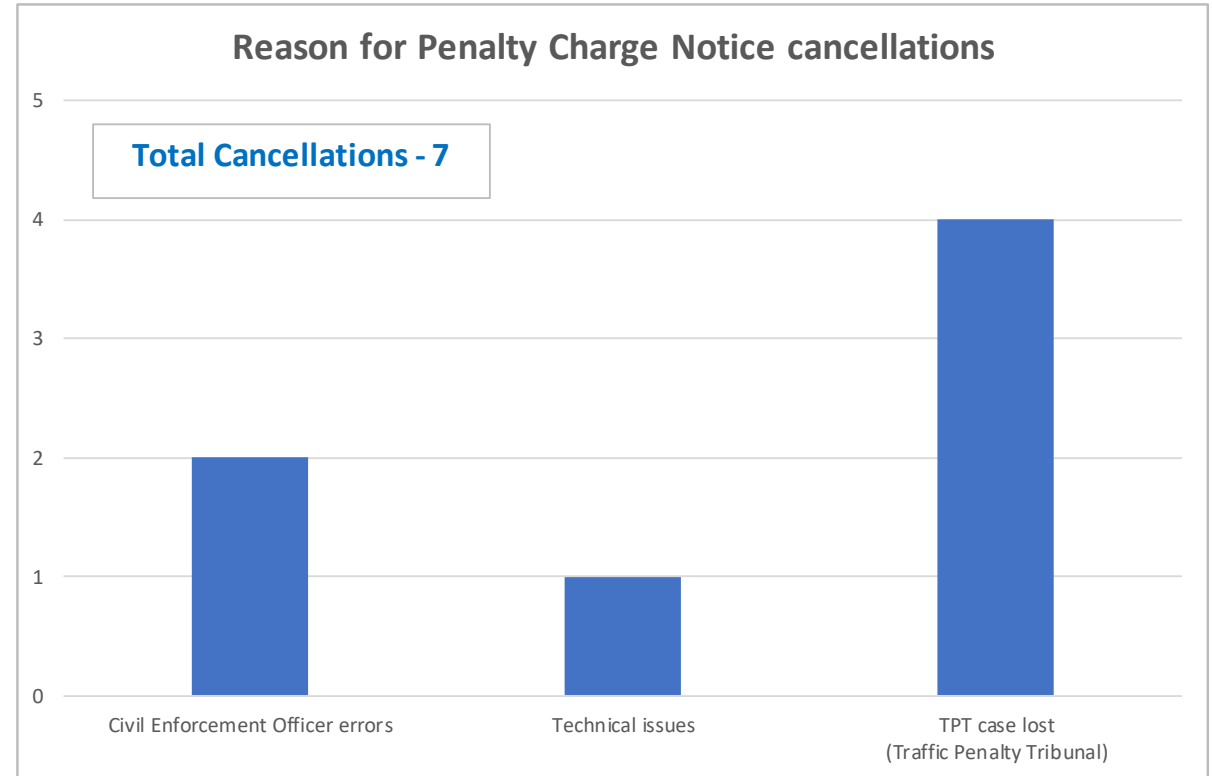
In June 2020, the Council changed systems for its provision of virtual tickets from Ringo to **MiPermit**. There was a period of apx 2-3 weeks when the two were running unintentionally alongside each other. The Council therefore agreed cancellations / appeals where it was clear drivers had paid for a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



Penalty Charge Notice Representations, Appeals and Beyond



Total appeals received - 212



Financial Performance

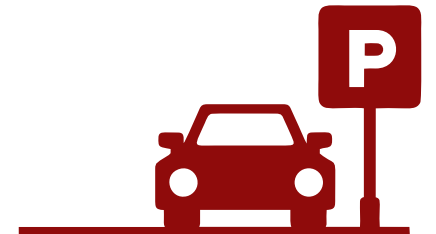
Income from car parking fees and Penalty Charge Notices (parking tickets) will be used to off set the cost of the full parking function.

During 2020/21, the income generated from Penalty Charge Notices totalled £19,635, a full breakdown of Penalty Charge Notices paid is outlined in the table below. Mid Suffolk 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	£1,675
Jul-20	£3,025
Aug-20	£2,200
Sep-20	£1,625
Oct-20	£1,935
Nov-20	£1,260
Dec-20	£1,650
Jan-21	£2,125
Feb-21	£2,430
Mar-21	£1,710
TOTAL	£19,635

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	£3,711
Expenditure inc employee costs	£81,147
Income	(£19,635)
Net expenditure / cost of running off street Civil Parking Enforcement	£65,223



- 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**

Mid Suffolk

4,445

961

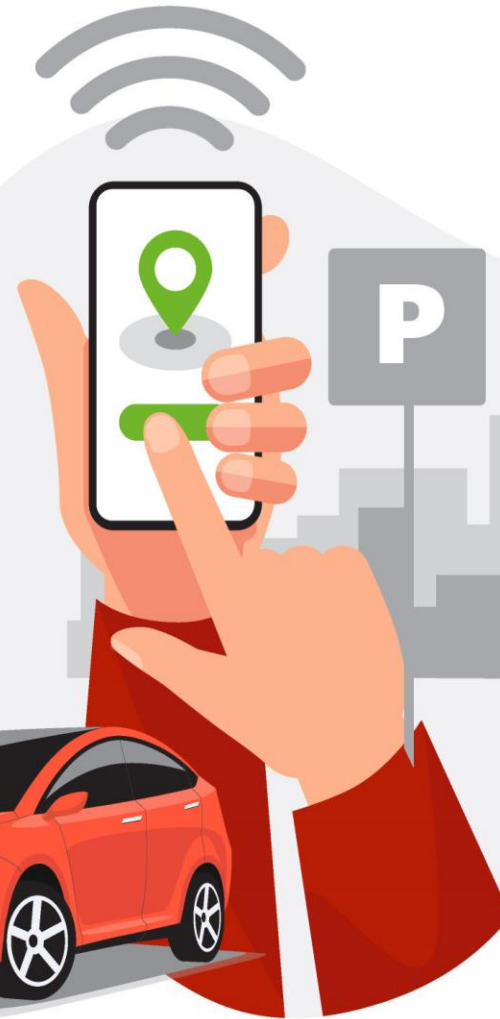
212

105

£19,635

£84,858

£65,223



Civil Parking Enforcement – one year on

Civil Enforcement 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 cannot park.



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