

Woking Borough Council

Parking Charges for Members of the Faith Community and Community Groups

Policy Statement

1. Places of worship, and the faith communities that they serve, play an important role, both in society in general and Woking in particular. They encourage people to participate in society, thereby promoting social inclusion. In addition, considerable voluntary work is organised by faith communities, often for the benefit of the more disadvantaged members of our society.
2. The Council will, where it is reasonable and proportionate to do so, support the faith communities in the borough of Woking.
3. In furtherance of this aim (a “legitimate aim” under the Equality Act 2010), the Council will allow members of a faith community to park free of charge, in the Council’s off-street car parks, in order to attend a place of worship for the purpose of, or in connection with, worship on that faith community’s primary day of worship.
4. The Council recognises that non-faith based community groups can (i) similarly encourage people to participate in society, thereby promoting social inclusion, and (ii) undertake considerable voluntary work, often for the benefit of more disadvantaged members of our society.
5. The Council will, where it is reasonable and proportionate to do so, support non-faith based community groups in the borough of Woking. Such support will include the provision of free car parking in the Council’s off-street car parks in appropriate circumstances.
6. This Policy Statement was adopted by the Council on 18 July 2013. It will be reviewed on 12 July 2017, or sooner if there is a material change in circumstances.