BOROUGH GREEN TOWN COUNCIL

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Open letter to the Borough Green Village Hall Management Committee

Proposed Car Park Charges
The Council was shocked by Mr Pearce's announcement at our last Council meeting that the VHMC intends to introduce charges for all parking in the Hall car park and install a height barrier. We are concerned that these proposals, following the harm to High Street footfall caused by previous parking charges, could put the future of our shops at risk.

Protecting Our High Street
Borough Green bucks the national trend of declining High Streets, and we must protect that distinction. We know of many people, particularly older residents, who no longer feel confident using our High Street shops for fear of incurring a parking charge, hearing that friends have received parking charges adds to this anxiety and can further undermine their confidence in using the car park.

Hall funding & running costs
We commend the Hall Committee's efforts to manage the Hall prudently in recent years. However, the Hall does not need to be financially independent. The Council has always helped to fund major projects, including:

- the new roof
- resurfacing the car park
- installing the lift.
- new boiler

We do believe it is right that hire charges should cover the Hall's running costs.

Community ownership and consultation
As you know, the Hall was built by the Parish Council and the people of Borough Green, and it remains owned by the people. They have a right to be heard on a matter of this importance.
We therefore urge you to carry out a full consultation before proceeding with the proposed parking changes. The Council would be happy to fund this consultation as we want to assist as best we can.

Borough Green Town Council