# Adur council’s new motorcycle parking fees spark backlash over fairness and motives



Phil Sheffield, a 61-year-old motorcycle enthusiast from Worthing, has expressed strong discontent over Adur District Council’s recent decision to implement parking fees for motorcycles. Announced on May 8, the new policy, set to take effect from June 6, revokes the previous exemption that allowed motorcyclists to park for free in off-street locations. The council argues that this change is necessary for better management of parking spaces and aims to promote equitable access among all motorists.

However, Sheffield contends that the move is primarily a revenue-generating scheme. “The council need to be brought to task. Bikes create less pollution and less congestion,” he stated, highlighting his long-standing experience as a motorcyclist since the age of 16. Sheffield firmly believes the new charges simply make it more cumbersome for riders, suggesting that the council’s intentions are more about financial gain than genuine concern for road usage.

Drawing comparisons to more motorbike-friendly policies observed during his recent travels in Belgium and France, Sheffield lamented the UK’s approach to motorcycling facilities. He described innovative solutions he encountered, such as secure steel boxes in pay-and-display car parks that allow riders to chain their motorcycles and store helmets or jackets safely—all at no cost. “In Belgium, you only need to bring your own lock,” he explained, emphasising how international practices could set a precedent for enhancing local amenities for motorcyclists.

Adur District Council's decision joins a growing trend across various London councils where motorcycle parking charges have recently been introduced. For instance, Islington Council began charging £1 for dedicated motorcycle parking bays, a policy that has drawn criticism from both riders and neighbourhood activists who argue that it particularly affects lower-emission forms of transport. Similarly, Hackney Council's charging scheme—aimed at reducing short-stay vehicle use—was described by critics as perpetuating an 'anti-motorcycle agenda.' With the annual costs potentially skyrocketing up to £2,300, riders feel these charges disproportionately target motorcyclists who often contribute less to pollution and congestion.

In Bath, a contrasting scenario unfolded recently when plans to impose emission-based parking charges for motorcycles were put on hold due to public backlash. Even though there were proposals to introduce a sliding scale based on engine size and emissions, feedback revealed significant concerns about fairness in treating motorcycles similarly to cars for parking fees. Councillor Manda Rigby acknowledged the plight of bikers amid the council's broader commitment to improving air quality, highlighting the complexity of addressing vehicle emissions without disproportionately penalising motorcyclists.

While the impetus behind such policies often stems from environmental considerations, it raises questions about the balance between promoting sustainable transport and the financial burden placed on motorcyclists. As Sheffield prepares to address the upcoming changes in Adur, he stands as part of a broader community advocating for equitable treatment and more thoughtful support for motorcycling as a transportation choice.

Those who seek to challenge the legitimacy of the new parking order now have a six-week window to voice their concerns, with the option to appeal to the High Court under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 if they believe the council's order exceeds its powers or inadequately followed proper procedures.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204388.motorcycle-enthusiast-slams-adur-parking-charge-decision/?ref=rss), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/environment/2023/06/03/bikers-dragged-labour-councils-war-motorists-new-parking/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204388.motorcycle-enthusiast-slams-adur-parking-charge-decision/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.motorcyclenews.com/news/motorcycle-parking-charges/), [[6]](https://www.hackneycitizen.co.uk/2023/04/25/motorcyclists-councillors-parking-charges/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.motorcyclenews.com/news/2024/december/bath-motorcycling-parking-follow-up/), [[4]](https://www.bathecho.co.uk/news/community/citys-bikers-hit-disproportionate-parking-charges-107745/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.motorcyclenews.com/news/motorcycle-parking-charges/), [[7]](https://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/23434336.islington-councils-hidden-motorcycle-parking-charges/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.motorcyclenews.com/news/2024/december/bath-motorcycling-parking-follow-up/), [[4]](https://www.bathecho.co.uk/news/community/citys-bikers-hit-disproportionate-parking-charges-107745/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25204388.motorcycle-enthusiast-slams-adur-parking-charge-decision/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.motorcyclenews.com/news/motorcycle-parking-charges/> - In April 2023, Islington Council in London introduced parking charges for motorcycles and scooters, following nearby Hackney's lead. The charges, effective from February 1, were part of a broader review of parking fees. Commuter Paolo Puccinelli expressed surprise upon returning to find a Penalty Charge Notice for parking without payment. An Islington Council spokesperson stated that the charges aim to reduce non-essential motor vehicle use and improve air quality, noting that while motorcycles emit fewer pollutants than cars, they still contribute to congestion and pollution.
3. <https://www.motorcyclenews.com/news/2024/december/bath-motorcycling-parking-follow-up/> - In December 2024, Bath and North East Somerset Council shelved plans to impose emission-based parking charges for motorcycles. The proposal, which would have required motorcyclists to pay comparable rates to cars, faced public backlash and technical challenges. Councillor Manda Rigby acknowledged that while motorcycles may be less impactful on congestion, they continue to emit pollutants. The council withdrew the charges due to feedback and challenges in providing lower parking rates for motorcycles.
4. <https://www.bathecho.co.uk/news/community/citys-bikers-hit-disproportionate-parking-charges-107745/> - In March 2024, Bath and North East Somerset Council considered implementing parking charges for motorcycles, potentially charging them the same rate as cars. A sliding rate based on emissions or engine size was proposed, adding 2.5% per emission band or 5% per capacity band to the baseline charge. The council justified the scheme as a means to improve air quality and road safety. Councillor Manda Rigby stated that while motorcycles may be less impactful on congestion, they continue to emit pollutants.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/environment/2023/06/03/bikers-dragged-labour-councils-war-motorists-new-parking/> - In June 2023, several Labour-led London councils, including Hackney, Lewisham, and Islington, introduced parking charges for motorcycles, leading to accusations of an 'anti-motorcycle agenda.' Hackney's charges could cost motorcyclists up to £2,300 annually. The National Motorcyclists Council argued that the charges were being applied to electric motorcycles as well. Hackney Council stated that the charges aim to reduce CO2 emissions and tackle pollution, with plans to reduce short-stay parking by 30% and overall driving by 15% by 2026.
6. <https://www.hackneycitizen.co.uk/2023/04/25/motorcyclists-councillors-parking-charges/> - In April 2023, Hackney Council approved new parking charges for motorcycles, including electric ones, leading to criticism from campaigners who branded the decision a 'farce.' The charges aim to reduce short-stay parking by 30% and overall driving by 15% by 2026. Councillor Alastair Binnie-Lubbock argued that the charges disproportionately target a lower-emission form of transport and could make Hackney hostile to motorcyclists. Hackney's transport boss, Councillor Mete Coban, stated that the scheme was one of the most consulted upon pieces of policy produced by the council.
7. <https://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/23434336.islington-councils-hidden-motorcycle-parking-charges/> - In February 2023, Islington Council introduced a £1 daily charge for dedicated motorcycle parking bays, leading to fines for motorcyclists who were unaware of the new charges. The council stated that the charges aim to reduce non-essential motor vehicle use and improve air quality. Save London Motorcycling criticized the move, stating that it left thousands of residents and workers at increased risk of bike theft. The council agreed to remove the £1 daily charge for Islington residents with a parking permit, but the charge remains for non-residents and residents without a valid permit.