

13 May 2026

Mr Andrew Camp
Commercial Director
GTR
Monument Place
24 Monument Street
London
EC3R 8AJ

Email: GTRPublicAffairs@GTRailway.com

Dear Mr Camp,

Reintroduction of Parking Charges – Station Approach, Edenbridge Town Station

The recent reintroduction of evening and weekend parking charges within Station Approach at Edenbridge Town Station has caused significant concern locally, and Edenbridge Town Council wishes to formally raise its objections.

The decision appears to have been implemented with little or no local consultation and has caused considerable concern amongst residents, users of the nearby WI Community Hall, and the wider community. Members are particularly disappointed given the previous extensive discussions and lobbying undertaken between 2017 and 2019 involving Edenbridge Town Council, local residents, and Tom Tugendhat MP, which ultimately resulted in the removal of weekend parking charges and recognition by GTR of the unique local circumstances at this location.

Station Approach is not simply a station car park. Edenbridge Town Station already benefits from its own dedicated car park, whereas Station Approach is an access road with parking bays along both sides. It serves two residential areas, provides access to the railway station, and is located immediately adjacent to the WI Community Hall, an important and heavily used community venue. Historically, evening and weekend users of the Hall - many of whom are elderly residents - have relied upon the availability of nearby parking within Station Approach, particularly as alternative parking locations are less convenient and can feel unsafe during late evening hours.

The Council is also concerned that the reliance on app-based payment methods may unintentionally discourage use of the area by some residents, particularly older users of the WI Hall and community groups. Whilst the Council appreciates the increasing use of digital payment systems, such arrangements are not always straightforward or accessible for all users and can be dependent on reliable mobile signal and internet access. Members are concerned that where parking arrangements become difficult or inaccessible, this may discourage attendance at local community activities and facilities.

The Town Council is concerned that the decision to apply a blanket “network-wide” parking approach fails to recognise the distinct local circumstances in Edenbridge. As your letter to Tom Tugendhat MP acknowledges, the changes were implemented as part of a wider standardisation exercise rather than following any location-specific review.

Members would also question whether the current charging arrangements are proportionate or justified in practice. Observation over a number of years has consistently shown relatively limited take-up of parking spaces along much of Station Approach, particularly during evenings and weekends when train services are reduced and community use becomes the primary demand. Previous charging arrangements displaced parking pressure elsewhere within the town without materially increasing usage of the station approach bays.

The Town Council therefore respectfully requests that GTR urgently reviews the current arrangements and reinstates free parking within Station Approach during evenings and weekends, or at minimum between 18:00hrs and 03:59hrs Monday to Friday and throughout weekends, as previously operated.

Whilst the Council appreciates the desire for consistency across the wider rail network, Members would respectfully request that GTR gives further consideration to the specific local circumstances and previous arrangements that have historically applied at Station Approach, Edenbridge. Should further discussion assist, the Council would be happy to meet with representatives from GTR either virtually or in person.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Leet

Caroline Leet
Town Clerk
Edenbridge Town Council

cc: Tom Tugendhat MP
Matt Boughton (Office of Tom Tugendhat MP)