

Full Council 29.9.20 –Agenda item 10

Car park tariffs

The Padstow Town Council (Off-street parking places) Order 2015 was updated in 2015 and tariffs increased. Car park tariffs are part of the budget considerations each year. The tariffs have not been increased since 2015, as the Council has been comfortable with these charges and is mindful of the costs associated with any increase, which involve advertising costs (which is a requirement when making changes to a Car Park Order), software upgrades, car park tariff board updates etc.

Whereas each year Committees consider their own budgetary issues, this year is different due to Covid-19 and the impact on the Council's finances. The Council gave consideration in June to Council expenditure and therefore it's considered that income and in particular car park tariffs need reviewing now, to improve income during the current Financial Year.

It is considered that, with or without Covid-19, there should be an increase to our charges from April 2021, as this is 6 years since the last increase.

Following communication between the RFO, Town Clerk, Chair of Finance and Chair of the Highways, Roads and Transport Committee, it was felt that consideration of the tariffs should be discussed sooner rather than later. If Council agree, an increase to the 2020/21 winter tariff could be made as soon as practicable, to try and provide some mitigation to the lost revenue over the lockdown period (£160k reduction in car park takings). It may be, even with the cancellation of the Christmas Festival, that we could see our car parks busier than in previous years with people wishing to get away for a short break, particularly with uncertainty around foreign travel.

In the Accounts for the year ended 31.3.20 the income per space was £1669 in the Railway car park and £1318 in the Lawn car park. The works undertaken at the end of last year and early this year, have seen the Lawn Car Park parking capacity increase from 80 to 100 spaces. This has helped increase the Lawn car park revenue in comparison with previous years. Council will also be aware that the Railway car park was refurbished a few years ago.

The RFO has prepared the attached Appendix 1, which details the current tariffs, the effect of inflation on the current tariffs and the recommended tariffs. The recommended tariffs, for Council's consideration, are based on inflation levels, looking at similar car parks in Padstow and seaside towns and to try to reduce the coins per transaction (this helps reduce the cash boxes becoming full at peak periods when collections can be an issue).

As Councillors will appreciate the car park income pays for the services the Council provides, since the last increase costs have been rising, particularly

toilet consumables and rubbish bin collections. The Non Domestic Rates for the Railway car park are £56,320 and the Lawn car park £14,970, in the current year, we are not eligible for any rates relief. The car park income helps ensure that we can continue to provide free public toilets, bin collections and all the other services we provide.

The ticket sales by tariff band vary from month to month and from year to year but overall 2 hours is the most popular time, then 3 hours, then 4 hours, then 1 hour, then 12 hours, then 24 hours. The average transaction value in the winter is £1.30 and the average in the summer is £3.60.

Excess charges are recommended to remain the same at £40 if paid within 14 days and £80 if paid after 14 days. We have a number of excess charge books printed with these amounts on and consider that £40 is a sufficient amount.

Coach fees are recommended to remain the same, as they are more expensive than some Cornwall Council car parks.

Car park season tickets are available for tenants who do not have a parking space and people working in Padstow. It is considered that, in the current climate, it is best to keep these at £480 (£400 plus VAT). Up to 15 season tickets are available and 4 have been sold in the current year.

The costs of updating the signs is £700, to update the car park machines £2510 (c£502 per machine, 5 machines), to advertise the updated Parking Order £850 (21 day consultation is required). RingGo has advised that on this occasion they will not charge to update the tariffs. The total estimated cost is therefore c£4060.

In the 2019-20 Financial Year car park takings were split c1/3 RingGo and 2/3 cash, this changed in 2020-21 to c1/3 cash to 2/3 RingGo, as the public sought contactless methods of payment due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Car park income would increase more quickly and the losses incurred this year reduced if car park charges are the same all the year round, rather than cheaper from 1st November to 28/29 February. The RFO recommends increasing the tariffs as detailed in Appendix 1 1st March – 31st October, so that the same charges are applicable all year. Padstow Harbour Commissioners charge the same car park fees all year.

Recommendation

To update the car park tariffs for the Railway and Lawn car parks from as soon as practicable in 2020 (ideally for 1.11.20) to all year, as detailed on the attached Appendix 1 in the 'Recommended Option' section on the left-hand side.

RECOMMENDED INCREASES IF SEASONAL CHARGING TO REMAIN

<u>RECOMMENDED OPTION</u>		<u>Padstow Town Council</u>		<u>Padstow Town Council</u>		<u>Other current car park tariffs</u>				
		<u>Car park fees incl VAT</u>		<u>Car park fees incl VAT</u>		<u>Padstow Harbour Commissioners all year</u>	<u>Cornwall Council Link Road</u>	<u>Newquay Cornwall Council</u>	<u>St Ives Cornwall Council</u>	<u>Harlyn beach 8-18.00</u>
<u>Charges 24 hours 7 days</u>	<u>Charges 24 hours 7 days</u>	<u>Current tariff</u>	<u>Effect of inflation on current tariff</u>	<u>Current tariff</u>	<u>Effect of inflation on current tariff</u>	<u>all year</u>	<u>Link Road</u>	<u>Cornwall Council</u>	<u>Cornwall Council</u>	<u>8-18.00</u>
<u>1 hour</u>	<u>1 March - 31 Oct</u>	70p	78p	70p	78p	£1	£1	£1.50	£1.50	£1.20
<u>2 hours</u>	<u>1 hour</u>	£2.50	£2.79	£2.50	£2.79	£2.30	£2.10	£3.10	£3.10	£3
<u>3 hours</u>	<u>2 hours</u>	£3.50	£3.91	£3.50	£3.91	£3.50	£4	£4.60	£4.60	£4.50
<u>4 hours</u>	<u>3 hours</u>	£4.50	£5.02	£4.50	£5.02	£5	£5	£6.20	£6.20	£5
<u>12 hours</u>	<u>4 hours</u>	£6.90	£7.70	£6.90	£7.70	£8	£6.10	£8.20	£8.20	£6 10 hours
<u>24 hours</u>	<u>12 hours</u>	£8.90	£9.94	£8.90	£9.94	£8				
<u>coaches up to 4 hours</u>	<u>24 hours</u>	£8.00	£8.94	£8.00	£8.94					
	<u>coaches up to 4 hours</u>									
	<u>1 Nov - 28/29 Feb</u>									
	<u>1 hour</u>			50p	56p			£1	£1	
	<u>4 hours</u>			£1	£1.12			£2.10	£2.10	
	<u>12 hours</u>			£2	£2.23					
	<u>24 hours</u>			£3	£3.35			£1	£5.20	
	<u>coaches up to 4 hours</u>			£5	£5.58					
<u>Excess charge</u>	<u>Excess charge</u>	£40	£44.68	£40	£44.68					
		£80	£89.36	£80	£89.36					
<u>Season ticket (£400 net)</u>	<u>Season ticket (£400 net)</u>	£480	£536.14	£480	£536.14					
(maximum of 15, 4 sold)	(maximum of 15, 4 sold)									