

**HAYSDEN COUNTRY PARK – CAR PARKING CHARGES
SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES RAISED BY USERS**

| KEY ISSUE | COMMENT |
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| (i) Concessions for frequent visitors. | The Council recognises that the proposed charging structure does not offer concessions to frequent users of the Park and it is proposed that options to address this are considered, including the introduction of a significantly discounted season ticket. |
| (ii) Proposed charges are too expensive. | The proposed charges of 60p for up to four hours and £2.40 for over four hours are in line with those charges at the Council's other Country Park at Leybourne Lakes. At the two Country Parks in the Borough provided and managed by Kent County Council a £1 car parking charge is levied with the option to purchase a season ticket. As stated in (i) above the option of a significantly discounted season ticket is currently being considered by the Council. |
| (iii) Where will the income go? | The income from the car parking charges will be used to maintain the high standards of provision at Haysden Country Park, and will also be used to help fund further improvements. |
| (iv) How much income will be generated? | It is anticipated that in a full year additional income of £17,500 will be generated from the car parking charges. The annual cost of maintaining and emptying machines would be in the region of £2,000, with enforcement being undertaken by the Council's existing car park Wardens employed directly by the Council. |
| (v) What are the set up costs? | The set up costs relate primarily to the installation of ticket machines, signage and the provision of an electrical supply. It is estimated that the implementation costs will be in the region of £7,500. |

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| (vi) Impact on resident sports clubs. | A meeting is being arranged with the Chairman of the Tonbridge Sports Association and representatives from resident clubs using the facilities, to discuss the implications of the car parking charges to their members. |
| (vii) Volunteers | Volunteers working on behalf of the Council within the Park will be exempt from car parking charges. |
| (viii) To which car parks will charges apply? | At this stage it is proposed that charges will apply to the Audley Rise car park and the main car park off Lower Haysden Lane. |
| (ix) Unauthorised parking | With the introduction of a season ticket it is not envisaged that unauthorised parking will be a significant problem. The situation will, however, be closely monitored by Officers of the Council in liaison with Kent County Council Highways and, if problems do occur, appropriate action will be considered. |
| (x) Council Tax | A number of comments have been received expressing the view that as Council Tax payers these facilities are already being paid for. As stated previously the additional income from the car parking charges will be used to maintain the high standards of service provision within the Country Park. The Council levies charges for the majority of its leisure facilities and services, including leisure centres, golf courses, tennis courts, etc. Car parking charges are already applied to all other Country Parks in the Borough and feedback from the Council's Resident Survey suggests a clear majority favour for charging users of Council services rather than allowing costs to fall on all Council Tax payers. |
| (xi) Will disabled visitors be charged? | In line with other car parks within the Borough provided and managed by the Council, designated disabled bays will be provided free of charge for Blue Badge holders. |

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| (xii) Healthy living | A number of comments have been received that the introduction of car parking fees will discourage people from taking regular exercise which is one of the Council's key priorities. Once again, it is felt that the introduction of a substantially discounted season ticket will ensure that regular users continue to use the Park frequently and the fee of 60p for four hours will not discourage less frequent visitors to the facility. |
| (xiii) Over height parking provision | The car parking charges will apply to over height vehicles which currently park at the entrance to the main car park. |
| (xiv) Customer Panel | Unfortunately, due to the timing of the Council's Leisure and Arts Advisory Board meeting in January 2008 which considered this matter, it was not possible for it to be considered in advance by the Customer Panel. This was drawn to Council Members' attention and it was agreed that the introduction of the car parking charges would be subject to further liaison with the Customer Panel which is now being undertaken. The next meeting of the Customer Panel is planned for early April 2008, which I will be attending. |