

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

20 May 2008

**Report of the Chief Leisure Officer and the
Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure**

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 HAYSDEN COUNTRY PARK – CAR PARKING CHARGES

Summary

This report updates Members on the introduction of car parking charges at Haysden Country Park.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 At the last meeting of this Board Members considered an update report on the introduction of car parking charges at Haysden Country Park, including feedback from members of the facility's Customer Panel. It was recommended to Cabinet that, subject to no substantive new issues being raised by the Haysden Country Park Customer Panel, and to the exemption from charges for the water bailiffs, the introduction of an annual car parking season ticket at Haysden Country Park as outlined in the report, be agreed and be implemented via a formal variation to the Council's Car Parking Order.

1.1.2 The recommendation was approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 2 April 2008.

1.2 Haysden Country Park Customer Panel

1.2.1 The issue of car parking charges was discussed in detail at the Haysden Country Park Customer Panel meeting on 7 April 2008.

1.2.2 The Panel welcomed the introduction of the season ticket but remained disappointed at the Council's decision to introduce car parking charges. No substantive new issues were raised by the Panel but a number of previous comments were reiterated including the potential increase of car parking along Lower Haysden Lane and the residential area close to Audley Rise car park; the poor condition of Haysden Water car park; the effect on resident sports clubs; the cost of implementation; the effect on volunteers working on the site; and the actual benefit this would bring to the Park.

1.2.3 Following the meeting of the Customer Panel I can confirm that a positive meeting has taken place with representatives from the Sailing Club, which was also

attended by the Chairman of Tonbridge Sports Association. The improvement works have taken place to the surface of the Haysden Water car park and, in addition, it has been confirmed in liaison with the Cabinet Member that volunteers will not be charged for parking. A meeting has also taken place on site with the local Member involving both myself and the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure.

1.3 Timescale

- 1.3.1 An implementation plan for the introduction of the new charges has been developed in liaison with the Council's Car Parking Manager and the Acting Chief Solicitor. The timescale for implementation takes into account the statutory processes associated with the variation to the Council's Car Parking Order notice, the installation of car parking meters and signage and the need for frequent users of the Park to purchase a season ticket in advance of the implementation date.
- 1.3.2 Taking into account the above it is anticipated that the new charges will be introduced in mid July 2008 and users of the Park will be kept informed through posters displayed on site.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 The Council's Financial Rules require that all fees and charges must be reviewed at least once a year and be reported to the appropriate Advisory Board.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 At the last meeting of this Advisory Board Members were advised that the anticipated additional income in a full year from the implementation of car parking charges at HCP would be £17,500. There will be an annual cost of £2,000 to maintain and empty the machines and administer the season tickets.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 The consultation exercise with users of the facility has identified a number of issues which have been carefully considered in advance of the new charges being implemented.

1.7 Policy Considerations

- 1.7.1 Community, Asset Management

File C.6

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