

Item: 8(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations
Comments received

1. Email Saturday 26 November 2022

The increase to £95 is considerably fairer and more palatable, yet I have sympathy with non-residents who will still need to pay the increased amount. This does seem unjust when they already pay more in rental already.

However, overall, the proposals are a huge improvement on the original suggestions, and I commend the council for listening and reacting positively.

2. Email Sunday 27 November 2022

May I ask that, as a beach-hut owner and resident of Hampshire, that I too could qualify for the concessionary annual rate for parking? I inherited the hut and they were residents of Stubbington. They were active members of the community and very well loved at Monks Hill beach and beyond. I am not a well-off Londoner coming down at weekends; I live in a two-bedroomed terrace outside of Winchester and am self-employed, so I do not earn a great deal.

I go to the hut all year round to swim and to remember my parents, as well as socialise with fellow hut owners, many of whom I have known for over 20 years. I was brought up swimming and sailing in the Solent and would very much like to continue to enjoy the beach at Monks Hill.

I feel that the hut owners are already paying a huge amount to FBC and that it would make a huge difference to us if we were to pay a little less for parking, but not make much impact on the council income if we were to pay 50% more than residents.

I might also point out that 50% of £95 takes the fee way above the original proposed annual cost of £125. Unless that was a mistake, which it may well have been.

There is also a call by many hut owners, including myself, to ask that the permit could be valid for at least two vehicles - but obviously, not at the same time. This would allow us to come as a family.

I am confident that the other hut owners would feel much the same as I do. I know others are also relatively local, and live in the county, if not the borough of Fareham.

I hope you can view my requests favourably.

Item: 8(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations
Comments received

3. Email Monday 28 November 2022

I own a beach hut and I did buy a parking permit last summer as I do not believe people should park in nearby residential roads to avoid paying their dues, and intended to continue to buy a permit so long as it is required to park in the coastal car parks.

I accept that perhaps there is a need to increase the charge for the annual permits but am most disappointed to read your proposal to levy a higher standard rate for non-concession/non-Borough residents. I already pay Fareham Borough Council double the beach hut plot rental and feel this is somewhat discriminatory. Hill head is probably our nearest beach so should we all not all have equal opportunity to enjoy the coast?

I would be interested to know how much each borough resident pays towards the beach at Hill Head, and if this is covered by the double plot rent that I pay I cannot see why parking permits should also incur a higher rate.

Surely beach hut owners from outside the borough have no other option but to drive to visit their huts and need somewhere to park, so why should we be penalised further for enjoying time at our huts

I am sure from this letter you understand my strength of feeling against the imbalanced increases to parking permits and ask that you present this letter at your meeting, hope that common sense prevails and that you please advise me of the decision reached on the 6th.

4. Email Tuesday 29 November 2023

I am writing to object in the strongest terms to the proposed increase in parking charges for Coastal Car Parks.

The proposal to increase the cost of an annual permit from £80 to £95 is outrageous. Although better than the original proposal of £125, it still is an 18.75% increase which is above inflation. The proposal to Charge non- residents £145 (an increase of 81.25%) is unfair, discriminatory and preposterous. This will have a severe adverse effect on the membership of local sports clubs. We are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis and these increases are both unjustified and simply greedy.

We belong to Seafarers Sailing Club and a high percentage of our Members live outside the borough. We race every Tuesday and Thursday evening in the summer as well as at weekends. All racing is supported by duty crews who provide patrol boat cover and safety cover on the beach. These duty crews are volunteers and if they are required to pay for parking they will simply stop volunteering. We support the Council's 'Access all Areas' programme and this support again is provided by volunteers who readily give up their time to help. Such an increase in parking charges will mean far fewer volunteers and therefore will have a detrimental effect on our efforts to support the Council.

Item: 8(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations

Comments received

Since the introduction of charges there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of cars using the car parks. I use the Salterns Car Park every day. Such a steep increase in charges is very unfair to people, many of whom are pensioners who like to go down to look at the sea. Does the Council want to stop people going to the beaches? I note that Gosport's annual permit is £85.

A secondary consequence will be to push parking back from the coastal car parks on to the surrounding side roads. This is already happening and will only increase. This will cause congestion in the side roads, cause great inconvenience to residents and present a danger to children out playing.

I note from the briefing paper that Town Car Parks are underutilised. Have you considered that this may be because of the parking charges? We used to shop frequently in Fareham, but since the introduction of high parking charges, we now shop elsewhere where we do not have to pay so much to park.

We have an annual permit each (income to the Council £160). If the proposed increase goes ahead, we will seriously consider reducing this to one permit (£95) so the Council will be worse off. That makes no economic sense at all. With an impending significant rise in Council Tax as well, it would appear that the Council are only interested in punishing residents.

5. Email Wednesday 1 December 2022

I am writing to object in the strongest possible way to the proposed increase in parking charges for the Coastal Car Parks.

The proposal to increase the cost of an annual permit from £80 to £95 is outrageous. Although better than the original proposal of £125, it still is an 18.75% increase which is above inflation. The proposal to Charge non- residents £145 (an increase of 81.25%) is unfair, discriminatory and preposterous. These car parks serve various sporting and community activities including the membership of local sports clubs. We are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis and these increases are both unjustified and simply greedy.

I belong to Seafarers Sailing Club, but a high percentage of our members live outside the borough. We race every Tuesday and Thursday evening in the summer as well as all weekends. All racing is supported by duty crews who provide patrol boat cover and safety cover on the beach. The patrol boat cover is essential and without it we could not safely race. The Club's volunteers are being penalized for ensuring people are able to sail in a safe and enjoyable way. These duty crews are volunteers and if they are required to pay for parking and they will simply stop volunteering, especially if they live outside of Fareham. We support the Council's 'Access all Areas' programme, and this support again is provided by volunteers who readily give up their time to help. Such an increase in parking charges will mean far fewer volunteers and therefore will have a detrimental effect on our efforts to support the Council.

Item: 8(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations
Comments received

Since the introduction of charges there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of cars using the car parks. It must be very frustrating for people living in the roads nearby as the walkers, mostly retired people, are finding the car parking costs already too high for them. I use the Salterns Car Park most days. Such a steep increase in charges is very unfair to people, many of whom are pensioners who like to go down to just look at the sea. Does the Council want to stop people going to the beaches? I see that Gosport's annual permit is £85. If the Council increase parking rates too much you will actually find your income going down instead of up as so many people will simply park in the roads nearby or not bother visiting the beach at all. We already have Sailing Club members, who live a little over half a mile from the Club but out of the Fareham perimeters, who have indicated that they will not be using the car park and will be forced out of the Club. This seems extremely short sighted for a Council who should be proud of their amazing seafront and its facilities for sailing, swimming, kite surfing, kayaking etc and a multitude of kids enjoying the beach. Please think again as this is going to have a devastating effect on this wonderful facility, The Solent.

I note from the briefing paper that Town Car Parks are underutilised. Have you considered that this may be because of the parking charges? We used to shop frequently in Fareham, but since the introduction of high parking charges, we now shop elsewhere where we do not have to pay to park.

We currently have an annual permit each, as [name] sails at different times to my volunteer duties (income to the Council £160) If the proposed increase goes ahead, we will seriously consider reducing this to one permit (£95) so the Council will be worse off. That makes no economic sense at all. With an impending significant rise in Council Tax as well, it would appear that the Council are only interested in punishing residents.

6. Email Saturday 25 November 2022

We are not considered resident for getting the discounted season ticket. I had Facebook correspondence with Sean Woodward and he confirmed there were no discounts for beach hut owners.

I am extremely disappointed with this decision. We already pay over £1000 a year for the ground rent for the beach hut and I would therefore have thought that we would be entitled to the discount as well as resident.

We have purchased season tickets for the last 2 years. We would be happy to purchase the discounted season ticket even though we would not pay that much in parking charges if we paid as we go as it is easier not having to worry about finding change. If we have to pay the higher £145 we will just pay as we go and are likely to spend considerably less than even the £95 discounted rate so you would lose revenue from us during the year and I am sure there would be other beach hut owners who would be in the same position.

Please can you take this to the meeting on 6 December.

Item: 8(1) Review of parking charges at coastal locations
Comments received

7. Email Monday 05 December 2022

Noting item 2 on the list below where you propose a 'concessionary rate of £95 for residents, and a higher standard rate of 50% more for non-concession / non-Borough residents'

This is a massive difference and does not take into consideration Hampshire residents (although non-Borough) that are within 45 minutes from home. I am only at the top of the A32 and make loads of trips to Hillhead each year and not just in the main season. Have you considered the possibility of a mid-way percentage increase of perhaps 20% above the £95 for other Hampshire residents?

You are only taking into consideration London based higher earners that just 'pop along' at weekends and not the true footfall usage that bring business into the area by using the Shack and shops in Lee on the Solent village regularly.

Please add my views to your agenda on Tuesday 6th December.