

Delegated Decision



Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES

Paul Jones

Proposed Country Park Car Parks - Introduction of new tariff structure

3 April 2018

Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson - Environment & Local Services

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposed implementation of a new tariff structure for Country Park Car Parks at Bolam Lake, Druridge Bay and Plessey Woods Country Parks.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the new tariff structure be implemented for Countryside Car Parks.

Link to Corporate Plan

Living - "We want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for"

Enjoying - "We want you to love where you live"

Key Issues

1. The reintroduction of parking charges is proposed at Bolam Lake, Druridge Bay and Plessey Woods Country Parks in order to finance a significant capital investment programme at these sites that will improve the quality and range of facilities being offered to park users.
2. The investment programme also makes some provision to take forward improvements at the other country park sites where parking would remain free of charge.
3. The proposal involves the introduction of a new tariff structure in the following Country Park Car Parks - Plessey Woods, Druridge Bay and Bolam Lake

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Background

The decision to introduce charges and the tariff structures were covered in the capital strategy group report that sets out the business case for the parks investment programme. This has been through Cabinet and the income is also part of the MTFP (Medium Term Financial Plan) approved through full Council.

This new tariff structure will only impact on the following Country Park Car Parks - Plessey Woods, Druridge Bay and Bolam Lake.

Northumbria Police, other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees were notified of these amendments as part of the process for making the permanent Orders. Comments and observations are invited from members of the public as part of the Traffic Regulation Order legal process.

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Implications Arising out of the Report

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme with be financed from LTP
Legal	Traffic Regulation Order (reference TRO_19_09)
Procurement	Signage to meet Regulations
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement.
Customer Consideration	Will result in further investment with Country Park Car Parks
Carbon reduction	None identified
Wards	Various

Background papers:

Appendix 1 - New Tariff Structure

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Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	initials
Finance Officer	
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	
I.T.	
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **Terry Luck - Programme Officer**
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Delegated Decision

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer:

Service Director, Local Services

Subject:

Proposed implementation of a new tariff structure to Bolam Lake, Druridge Bay and Plessey Woods Country Park Car Parks

Consultation:

Proposals were included within the MTFP (Medium Term Financial Plan) that was subject to consultation and approved by both Cabinet and through full Council.

Decision Taken:

Introduction of a new tariff structure to Bolam Lake, Druridge Bay and Plessey Woods Country Park Car Parks.

Signature of Director



Date

5/4/18

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Appendix A

Northumberland County Council Off Street Parking Places Composite Order
2014 Amendment No 9 Order 2018 - New Tariff Structure

Car Parking up to 1 hour - Free

Car Parking 1 - 2 hours - £1.60

Car Parking all day £3.00

Minibus/Horse box trailer (all day) £6

Coaches £10.00 (all day)

Season parking permit £35 per annum.



Northumberland County Council

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY
SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES**

Paul Jones

ADDENDUM

**Proposed Country Park Car Parks - Introduction of new tariff structure
12 June 2018**

Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson - Environment & Local Services

Purpose of the Addendum

This Addendum to the the original report; County Park Car Parks - Introduction of new tariff structure dated 3rd April 2018 and signed off on the the 5th April 2018; is required, in order to consider comments and objections received by our legal section during the advertising period of the Traffic Regulation Order.

The original report recommendation is detailed in Appendix 1A.

During the period that the proposal was being advertised, three objections were received from members of the public to NCC Legal Section. - see attached Appendix 2A.

All correspondence received objects to the introduction of charges to a small number of County Parks. As detailed in the report, these charges will be used to contribute to the overall investment programme for the parks, which will benefit all visitors. As with all changes introduced, Council Officers will continue to monitor their impact and make any subsequent changes where appropriate.

All elements of the objections received were carefully considered by Officers when making their final decision to make the proposed Order.

Delegated Decision - ADDENDUM

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer:

Service Director, Local Services

Subject:

Proposed implementation of a new tariff structure to Bolam Lake, Druridge Bay and Plessey Woods Country Park Car Parks

Consultation:

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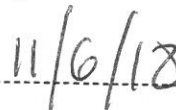
Decision Taken:

All elements of the objections received were considered by NCC Officers and the decision is to proceed with the Introduction of a new tariff structure to Bolam Lake, Druridge Bay and Plessey Woods Country Park Car Parks, without any amendments.

Signature of Director



Date



Extract of Original Report

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY
SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES**

Paul Jones

**Proposed Country Park Car Parks - Introduction of new tariff structure
3 April 2018**

Cabinet Member: Glen Sanderson - Environment & Local Services

Purpose of Report

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Recommendations

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Delegated Decision - ADDENDUM

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Objections Received

Number 1

-Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 15 April 2018 20:17

To: maureen.willcock@northumberland.gov.uk

Subject: Druridge bay parking charges

I wish to object to the re introduction of parking charges at Druridge bay and other country parks in Northumberland. Since the removal of parking charges I have seen the numbers of people using the park increase you only have to walk around the lake, woods or grass areas to see young families, the elderly, dog walkers, runners in fact a wide range of Northumberland folk and visitors using this great facility. We can attend museums free of charge but to visit the great outdoors is now going to cost us again. A healthy outdoor option in this age of encouraging activity to beat obesity is being put out of reach of those unable/unwilling to afford these charges. I am unsure as to how the proposed charges have been decided upon, the first hour free. Why, personally I cannot walk around the lake or even enjoy a leisurely cup of coffee at the visitor centre and short walk within an hour. Which group is this 1 hour free for. Make it first two hours free and it makes sense. Then it jumps to £1.60 and £3.00 these high charges will just encourage parking along the beach roads outside the lake by those in the know. The annual parking permit is quite high at £35 again how was this figure agreed, Through Spring, Autumn and Winter any one who works can only visit at weekends in times when the park closes 5-6pm. please think again and if these charges have to go ahead reduce the costs especially the annual charge for local people who use this facility and are already having to find increases in council tax and garden waste collection charges.

To find more funding increase costs for the events held throughout the year on site, especially those that include camping/ caravanning as last year the amount of rubbish left on occasions was appalling.

Yours Sincerely

Delegated Decision - ADDENDUM

Number 2

From: >

Date: 22 April 2018 at 17:06:44 BST

To: maureen.willcock@northumberland.gov.uk

Subject: Fwd: Druridge

Sent from my iPhone

I am writing to express my objection to the parking charges being introduced at the country parks in Northumberland. Whilst walking at Druridge Bay country park I saw a small notice which displayed the proposed charges.

I live locally to the park although not within walking distance. Walking around the lake and wooded areas with my dog meeting up with friends and passing the time of day with other park users is a big part of my life. For the last two years I've watched the swans raise and fledge 7 cygnets, counting them on every visit. I've seen swimmers brave the lake, children learn about the outdoors and unfortunately been dismayed by the litter left after caravan, camping and music events. I hope you see that this facility is very important to me and other users.

I am a single wage earner not on a high wage. I would find the annual charge difficult to pay in a lump sum but the daily charge would severely limit the number of times I would be able to visit the park. Not everyone can afford to pay to go out to and having somewhere wonderful to go that is free is important to a lot of people.

The 1 hour free is not enough time to visit this facility I'm not sure who would find this sufficient I could walk around the lake but I'd not be able to stop and chat to anyone or just sit and enjoy the view. Please don't restrict Northumberland residents from a great resource leave this as a free attraction for all. If that's impossible think about the possibility of reducing the annual charge which may even encourage visitors to the area to purchase it as well instead of just visiting for the free hour.

Thank you

Delegated Decision - ADDENDUM

Number 3

From:

Date: 29 April 2018 at 19:27:40 BST

To: maureen.willcock@northumberland.co.uk

Subject: Lady burn Lake car park charges

I am writing to give my objection to the proposed charges at the Ladyburn lake.

This is a local amenity for people who live in Northumberland. The disruption while opencast was going on there was enormous to the community and council tax payers should now be able to benefit from the area .

It is a very popular place for families, dog walkers etc.

I cannot understand why the 1st hour is supposedly to be free. Is this just to accommodate runners at the weekend? There is little you can do there in under an hour. Is someone to be employed to keep a check on those who stay too long? Are all the caravans rallies, charity fundraisers etc going to be charged?

I would like to know who pays for the upkeep of the area? Is it Northumberland County Council? If it is, then people living in the NCC are already paying through their council tax.

People will start to park in Hadston as well as the beach road. The dangers involved as well as parking problems in Hadston will not be a benefit to anyone. People paying their local taxes should be exempt, such as the local disc parking.

Northumberland does not have a huge amount of facilities , apart from Alnwick sports centre and Morpeth sports centre. Do people at County Hall have to pay to park there? I don't think so.

I really feel quite strongly about this. To deny young families and people who are short of money this facility is totally wrong. The unemployment in the area is I think quite high and they are the ones in particular that will suffer.

I think it is a sad reflection of how councils work these days and totally unfair.

Sent from my iPad

