

Councillor Will Thomas
Convener
Car Parking Charges Scrutiny Working
Group

Please ask for: Councillor Mark Thomas
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Our Ref:
Your Ref: MT/CM
Date: 12th June 2018

Dear Councillor Thomas

Car Parking Charges Scrutiny Working Group on 28 November 2017

Thank you for your letter dated the 22nd May 2018 relating to potential improvements to car parks, in particular foreshore car parks.

1. I can confirm that there is an intention to reduce car parking tariffs in foreshore car parks including the ones of particular interest to you, namely, Bracelet Bay, Caswell and Langland. Appendix A provides an extract from the proposed paper which intends to review car park tariffs.
2. Bracelet Bay – I understand that the entrance 'in and out' markings and linage have been improved. Missing fencing is being replaced.
3. Asset transfer of foreshore toilets will be considered as part of a separate review.
4. Entrance gate to Bracelet Bay – this has been costed at £5,000 and will incur additional costs to close and open each day, resulting in additional revenue pressures on the service. In advance of such expenditure, the council has enlisted the assistance of South Wales Police to tackle anti-social behaviour within foreshore car parks.
5. Installing lights above ticket machines in foreshore car parks – this has been investigated and is considered to be prohibitively expensive. However, due to the inability of the current manufacturer to increase illuminance levels of the machine displays, it is intended to procure new machines from a different manufacturer, which will have the added benefit of increased reliability. These new machines will have brighter displays, which will negate the need for additional lighting. An additional benefit is that the new machines will be able to accommodate cashless payment, providing an additional method of payment, reducing the amount of cash held in the machines, which in turn, will hopefully reduce the spate of vandalism / attempted theft from machines.

6. A new supplier of pay and display machines will be trialled shortly, with additional functionality, improved communications which will ensure greater machine reliability, with consistent income streams.
7. Leasing out some of the car parks – this has not been progressed at this time, as the issue will have to be considered on a strategic basis. However, a review of the car parking management strategy is to be commissioned shortly, and the issue of how the car parks should be managed could be considered.
8. As part of the wider city centre regeneration plans – future and emerging technological advances are being considered under the Smart Cities initiative, and the future demands are being considered as part of the Swansea Central project.

I trust the above will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR MARK THOMAS
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

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Appendix A – extract from proposed report ‘Review of Car Park Tariffs’

2. Foreshore Car Parks Winter Charges

- 2.1 In 2017 the Council introduced winter charges in all of its Beach and Foreshore Car Parks, including those that were free. In addition to this the Council agreed to extend the Summer Charging period to 1st March to 31st October. Previously the summer period had been 1st April to 30th September.
- 2.2 Concerns have been raised by local members that the winter charges are affecting businesses around the Foreshore areas at a time when visitor numbers are already lower. Local Members therefore requested that Parking Services reduce the winter charges, and this has been raised through the Scrutiny process.
- 2.3 Any reduction in Winter charges will result in a loss of income at a time where the Council is looking at maximising income generation opportunities. In order to mitigate against the anticipated reduction in car park income over the winter period, it was suggested that the summer charges are increased accordingly.
- 2.4 The current and proposed winter charges are as follows

Current Winter Charge	Proposed Winter Charge
Up to 1hr £0.50	Up to 1hr £0.50
Up to 2 hr £1.20	Up to 2 hr £1.00
Up to 3 hr – no 3 hr tariff currently	Up to 3 hr £1.50
All day - £4.50	All day £3.00

- 2.5 In order to offset the loss from reducing the winter charges it is proposed that the summer charges are changed as follows

Current Summer Charge	Proposed Summer Charge
Up to 1hr £1.50	Up to 1hr £1.50
Up to 2 hr £3.00	Up to 2 hr £3.00
Up to 3 hr – no 3 hr tariff currently	Up to 3 hr £4.00
All day - £5.00	All day £6.00