

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

meeting date: 14 MARCH 2023
title: EDISFORD CAR PARK – TRIAL FOR USE OF LONG STAY PASSES
submitted by: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Committee with an update on the issue of parking at Edisford for users of the leisure facilities nearby.
- 1.2 To consider a recommendation from the car park working group to allow a one-year trial allowing users of long stay parking permits to park on Edisford Car Park.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
 - Community Objectives - To help make people's lives healthier and safer.
 - Corporate Priorities - To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
 - Other Considerations – The leisure facilities at Edisford are unusual in not having their own car parking facilities, which does make an additional financial demand on some users during the chargeable period.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The car park at Edisford serves all the leisure facilities located there, Roefield Sports Centre, Ribblesdale Pool, Tennis centre, RV3G, the grass pitches as well as the riverbank area. It is designated as a short-term car park with 241 spaces, including the disabled bays.
- 2.2 At Committee in January 2023, a petition was presented by a member of the public seeking a period of free parking for Roefield users and the matter was referred to the car parking working group for consideration.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The petitioner was seeking a period of free parking for Roefield users, however, to specify just those users would be discriminatory towards all the other users of that and all other car parks the Council operates. Therefore, any solution to assist users would need to apply to all who may wish to use the car park.
- 3.2 Having a period of free parking would in essence be unenforceable, making the car park effectively free for all users. Users could simply renew their ticket through the day, to ensure they obtained free parking for the day. Something which the Council could not defend in respect of all other car parks it provides in the Borough. Although the income from car parks is substantial, the purpose of charging also assists in managing the car parks, aiding the turnover of car park spaces.
- 3.3 The car park working group considered the issue that had been raised and proposed an option which could be trialled for a year.

5 PROPOSAL

- 5.1 The current parking order on Edisford designates it as a short-term car park, to change that would take time to enact, because it requires a change to the legal status enabling charging and enforcement to take place. However, our parking permits are something the Council determines, and do not require a parking order to be applied for.
- 5.2 Therefore, the car park working group propose that the current long stay car parking permit is extended to allow purchasers the ability to park on the Edisford car park using the existing long stay permit, this would be trialled for one year starting 1st April, 2023 and then reviewed.
- 5.3 This would enable any leisure facility user who wishes to park there to purchase an annual pass long stay pass, valid from 1st April 2023 until 31st March 2024, the cost of which is £99.10. This would allow them to park on the Edisford car park, as well as any other long stay car park on any day of the week without further charge, the 2 hourly charge per visit is £1.90, therefore parking only twice per week over 50 weeks of the year and paying the individual charge would amount to approximately twice the annual pass fee.
- 5.4 This trial will allow 3 aspects to be monitored, the level of parking along Edisford Road, which ought to reduce if people have access to pay for a pass which allows them to park closer to their chosen facility, this has been raised as a matter of concern from a safety perspective. The impact on the revenue generated by the car park, to see if the take up of the pass impacts on the income generated. Finally, to see if attendances at the facilities rise because of making parking at Edisford cheaper for regular users by giving them access to the parking pass, which was an aspect highlighted in the petition as a barrier to use.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- Resources – It was budgeted that Edisford car park will generate income of approximately £105,000 this financial year 2022/23. At this point it is unknown what the impact of this trial will be on the Council's budget. It is proposed this will be kept under review.
- Technical – The Council controls the parking permits and how they are administered, if as an organisation we choose to allow long stay permit holders the right to park on a specific short stay car-park.
- Political – none in the context of the report.
- Reputation – this approach shows a positive response from the Council to the petition and those enquiries the Council has had previously about addressing the issue of parking for regular users of the leisure facilities at Edisford.
- Equality and Diversity – the permit is open to all, blue badge holders are unaffected, as they retain the right to park in the specified bays without charge.

6.0 RECOMMENDED

- 6.1 That Committee approve the one-year trial of the use of long stay car parking passes on Edisford Car Park.

Mark Beveridge
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Mark Beveridge 01200 425111