

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL

Report to:- Carlisle City Council

Date of Meeting:- 3rd March 2009

Agenda Item No:-

Public

**Title:- RESIDENTS PETITION - CARLISLE AND DISTRICT
RAMBLING CLUB**

Report of:- Director of Community Services

Report reference:- CS15/09

Summary:- This report gives details of a petition from members of the Carlisle and District Rambling Club objecting to the proposed increases in Sunday Car Parking charges from 1st April 2009.

Recommendation:- It is recommended that members note the concerns being expressed by the Ramblers Club and advise them of other car parks which are available free use on Sundays.

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Michael Battersby

Director of Community Services

20 February 2009

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 A petition has been submitted signed by 42 members of the Carlisle and District Rambling Club objecting to the proposal to increase Sunday parking charges. A sample page from the petition is attached for information. The members of the Rambling Club use the Sands Car Park as a central meeting point from which to start Sunday walks. After car sharing is organised some vehicles are parked during the day while owners take part in the walk(s). The petitioners are concerned about the increase in costs proposed to be introduced from 1st April 2009. A daily charge would increase from the present £1.50 to £4.80. There is concern that the increased costs will place a financial strain on members of the club.
- 1.2 As part of the review car park charges for 2009/10 it was appreciated that the economic situation was difficult and therefore only limited increases in parking charge were proposed. It was proposed, and has subsequently been agreed that Sunday Parking Charges would be increased. The existing Sunday charge is £1.50 for all day parking, this is to be changed so that Sunday charges are the same as other weekdays. The implications for users of the Sands car Park (Long Stay) are that for stays up to 2 hours there is a saving or minimal impact, for longer stays the charges do increase. Changes in shopping and leisure habits over recent years now mean that Sunday use of the car parks was similar to other days of the week and charges should reflect this. This will also remove the confusion which does occur at present with the different charges.
- 1.3 Members may wish to advise members of the Ramblers Club that there are other car parks, such as Rosehill car Park, which are available for Sunday use and where no charge is levied. Members of the Ramblers Club may find this car park with its easy access to the motorway a more convenient meeting point.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Consultation to Date.

Consultation on the proposed charges has taken place with the Large Firms Affinity.

- 2.2 Consultation proposed.

No further consultation is proposed apart from the formal notice of variations in car park charges which will be advertised shortly in the paper.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members note the concerns being expressed by the Ramblers Club and advise them of other car parks which are available free use on Sundays.

CAR PARKING	
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CARLISLE & DISTRICT RAMBLING CLUB

We the undersigned, wish to express our concern and to lodge our protest against the proposed increased parking charges at the Sands Centre on Sundays.

As Club membership covers not only the city, but local villages and towns and even southern Scotland, it is both essential and imperative to have a central meeting place from which to start our walks, and allow us to car-share as much as possible. We find that the Sands car park fulfills these criteria, and have used it since its inception, as Sunday public transport is either non-existent or unavailable until after 9.00 am (our starting time). We consider the present charge of £1 is more than adequate, especially on Sundays, and feel any increase would prove a strain on the financial resources of those on fixed incomes, pensioners, students and the unemployed, and may prevent them and others from taking the benefit of healthy exercise in our area.

Name

Address

Signature