

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**

**AS**

**TRUSTEE OF THE CANNOCK PUBLIC RECREATION AND PLEASURE  
GROUND CHARITY**

**18 MAY 2006**

**REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**PAY AND DISPLAY CAR PARK CHARGES ON CANNOCK PARK AND CHASE  
LEISURE CENTRE**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To consider the introduction of pay and display car park charges on Cannock Park car park (adjacent to tennis courts) and Chase Leisure Centre car park, in so far as they are sited on Trust land.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Council as Trustee consider whether it wishes to support the proposals of introducing pay and display on the Cannock Park car park.
- 2.2 That the Council as Trustee consider whether it wishes to support the proposals of introducing pay and display on the Chase Leisure Centre car park.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The introduction of payment for the use of the above car parks was previously approved as Policy Options by the Council, subject to the Council as Trustee of the Charity approving car park charges on the Charity's land.
- 3.2 An Off-Street Car Parking Order, which included Cannock Park Car Park, was advertised in August 2005. As required by statute, the Notice detailed the proposed introduction of Pay and Display charges on the car park and detailed a Council correspondence address for any public objections or other representations to be sent. There were no objections or other representations received relating to Cannock Park car park.
- 3.3 To date no Off-Street Car Parking Order has been advertised covering the introduction of Pay and Display charges on the Chase Leisure Centre car park.

**4. Summary**

- 4.1 The Cannock Park car park is situated off Park Road Cannock, which is adjacent to Cannock Park and also convenient for the town centre. Chase Leisure Centre car park is provided for those who use the Centre although again located not far from the town centre. However, as both currently provide free parking, their use is taken up by a number of long-stay users of the town centre, in particular the Cannock Park car park, thereby limiting the availability of car parking spaces for visitors to Cannock Park and the Chase Leisure Centre. The introduction of payment for car parking may free up additional spaces for users of the park facilities.
- 4.2 The original Parking Order Notice referred to in 3.2 and 3.3. proposed long stay parking at £2.40 per day. In order to discourage long stay users of the town centre and encourage visitors to the park it is proposed to advertise a further Parking Order Notice for short stay parking only on Cannock Park car park at a rate of £0.50 up to a maximum stay of five hours. If the Council, as Trustee, agrees to both recommendations in 2.1 and 2.2 of the report, then the Parking Order Notice could cover both car parks. The pay and display charging hours would be 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Monday-Saturday, with no charges for parking on Sundays and Bank Holidays.
- 4.3 In considering the introduction of car park charges at the Leisure Centre it is essential that the impact upon Leisure Centre usage and incomes is also taken into account. The current proposals being considered in respect of the Leisure Centre car park include a mix of long and short stay provisions with the decisions on the final split being based on what will best serve the interests of the Leisure Centre users. The charges and times will be as set out in paragraph 4.2.
- 4.4 The Leisure Centre continues to experience a downturn in income and is in the process of introducing a number of action plans to address this issue, including:-
- (a) Amendments to membership scheme and charges;
  - (b) Refurbishment of the fitness suite and membership initiatives;
  - (c) Review of charges and management arrangements at the golf course.
- 4.5 The essence of the majority of the initiatives is to promote membership and encourage greater use and commitment of use to facilities, reduce administration and generate additional income. Although revised charges were introduced from 1 April 2005 a number of other initiatives are to be phased in over the coming months and hence any indirect increase in the cost of using the Chase Leisure Centre by the introduction of car park charges may have a detrimental impact on existing usage and hence the ability to convert that usage into annual commitment via membership. Therefore, the introduction of payment for use of the Chase Leisure Centre car park is based upon a proposal whereby the Leisure Centre members would be exempted from the charge.
- 4.6 The pay and display system that would be used on both car parks is exactly the same as is used on the pay and display car parks in Rugeley and Cannock. Payment is made in advance for the time the ticket is issued and displayed on the windscreen of

the vehicle and the car park is patrolled to check tickets have been purchased and the expiry time has not been exceeded.

- 4.7 As on other car parks, holders of disabled blue badges would be exempt from this charge.
- 4.8 As the intention of the proposals in respect of both car parks is to facilitate the use of those car parks by the users of Cannock Park facilities it is considered that the proposals are compatible with the objects of the Trust.

## **5. Human Rights Act Implications**

- 5.1 There are no identified implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998 arising from this report.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal barriers to the Trust seeking to introduce the proposed pay and display car park charges, although the Trustee needs to be satisfied that the proposals are in the best interest of the Trust and compatible with its objects.
- 6.2 However, any income derived from introducing car parking charges on Trust land must be used for the exclusive benefit of Cannock Park. The purpose and basis of the introduction of the proposed charges is to ensure sufficient parking for visitors to the Park and its facilities.
- 6.3 The income generated is income belonging to the Council as Trustee not the Council as a public authority. Accordingly, it is advised that such income must be clearly identified within the Council's Accounts..
- 6.4 Moreover, it is further advised that it is important to ensure that there remains a clear audit trail in relation to the income generated and its subsequent expenditure. The Trustee is under a legal duty to ensure that it can and is able to account for the income generated and expended.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Cannock Park and Chase Leisure Centre are maintained and operated by the Council and although forming an integral part of the Council's Cultural services are separately accounted for by the Council.
- 7.2 The approved cost or net expenditure for the facilities in 2005-06 amounts to £188,600 and £1,159,020 respectively. The introduction of car park charges at Cannock Park and Chase Leisure Centre will reduce the net cost to the Council of both facilities.
- 7.3 Provision exists within the revenue budget for additional net income of £24,000 per annum, arising from the introduction of car park charges at the facilities. In accordance with the legal requirements outlined above the income will be credited to the respective revenue accounts of Cannock Park and Chase Leisure Centre.