

APPENDIX F

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 2 MARCH 2010

Title:

FRENSHAM PARKING & KIOSK - NEW ARRANGEMENTS FROM EASTER 2010

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Roger Steel]

[Wards Affected: Frensham, Dockenfield & Tilford]

Summary and purpose:

To seek authorisation for revised arrangements for parking charges and kiosk operation at Frensham Great Pond, following recommendations from internal audit report.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Frensham Great Pond is an important countryside leisure facility for Waverley residents and delivers the Leisure corporate priority.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

Charging for parking may exclude those with limited resources, however charging is only on weekends & bank holidays from Easter to September. The site has free and open access to those on foot, horse and bicycle.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

Will generate more resources to assist with managing this popular visitor destination.

Legal Implications:

Preparation of lease for operation of the catering kiosk.

Background

1. The operation of parking charges and the refreshment kiosk at Frensham Great Pond has been reviewed, following a recent internal audit report.

Parking Charges

2. Under the Scheme of Regulation of Frensham Common a charge can be made for parking within a designated parking area. For more than 13 years, a charge for parking at Frensham Great Pond has been made on Sundays and bank holidays from Easter to early September. The Council's parking strategy covering other Waverley car parks excludes charging on Sundays and bank holidays. However, it is only financially viable, from a visitor number point of view, to charge at Frensham during the busy times of the year.

3. There may be some resistance to the extension of parking charges. However, visitors who do not wish to, or choose not to pay for parking, can visit the site during the week, or at weekends outside the summer charging period, or visit on foot, by horse or by bicycle.
4. The proposal is to extend the charging to Saturdays and to simplify the charging by only operating one rate of £2.50 per vehicle from 10am to 4.30pm.
5. In order to contain the costs of extending the parking charges within the existing casual staff budget, the car parking duties will be added to the job description of the Frensham seasonal rangers. This will make a saving of £2,750 in additional car park attendant wages to cover Saturday charging.
6. It is anticipated that the extended parking charges will generate an additional £5,000 income per annum, which will contribute towards the running costs of the site. Charges will be reviewed every two years.

Kiosk

7. The refreshment kiosk at Frensham Great Pond has operated for more than 26 years. There is a need to negotiate a new lease with the kiosk operator that will ensure a regular quarterly income to the Council and clarify the operational terms and conditions. Conditions will include: hours of operation, products sold, management of the facility to meet food hygiene regulations and maximise recycling, yearly fee reviewed every two years.

Conclusion

8. The proposed changes will meet the recommendations made by internal audit and generate additional income to assist with the cost of managing this important countryside site.

Recommendation

It is recommended that

1. the proposed new arrangements be agreed, including the extension to parking charges; and
2. officers be authorised to put in place new arrangements and negotiate the new kiosk lease.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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