

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 13

meeting date: 17 OCTOBER 2017
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: JOHN C HEAP - DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES
NEIL YATES, ENGINEERING SERVICES MANAGER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform that an additional trustee is on the board of Roefield Leisure Centre, to look at current issues affecting parking in the borough, and to confirm that arrangements are in place concerning the withdrawal of the current £1 coin.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's Ambitions and Priorities:

- Council Objectives : to sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
- Corporate priorities: to ensure best use of Council resources in the provision of parking

2 ROEFIELD LEISURE CENTRE

Roefield Leisure, the charity which operates Roefield Sports Centre, has informed the Council that they are adding a tenth trustee to their board. They have been advised by their auditors they need to do this to comply with charity law. The Board members have full voting rights and have to operate in accordance with charity law. The Council currently has 2 trustees on the Board and this number would not change, in addition there is officer representation, who has no voting rights on the Board. The Council does not provide revenue support to the charity, although it has provided grants and loans in the past, one of which is being paid off to the Council as agreed some years ago.

The Trustees meet on a quarterly basis to receive accounts and news on the operation of the Roefield Centre. This body provides the independent governance for the charity.

3 PARKING AT HOLMES MILL

3.1 Ribble Valley Borough Council currently manages 29 car parks throughout the borough, some of which are owned outright and others that are leased to the Council. 19 of these sites are chargeable to customers on a pay and display basis.

3.2 In April 2017, James' Places, the owners of the Holmes Mill development, made contact with the Engineering Services department regarding the possibility of the Council undertaking the management of their car park, once opened to the public.

- 3.3 James' Places proposed that the car park should be free of charge to its customers for a time period of up to three hours per visit. The Council would carry out parking enforcement on behalf of James' Places and in return would receive any revenue generated from penalty charge notices issued in the car park.
- 3.4 The above proposal would be on an initial 12 month arrangement on a rolling basis, with a three month notice period of termination at any time.
- 3.5 In order to comply with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and to enable enforcement on the car park to be undertaken legally, the Council would need to create a new parking order for the car park. In order for this to be possible, the Council would have to lease the car park from James' Places. A similar situation has previously occurred at Chipping Car Park, where the Council leased the car park from Chipping Village Hall.
- 3.6 A further potential issue was identified in that if customers did not have to pay and display a valid ticket to park in the car park, then the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers would be unable to identify how long vehicles had been parked, unless they were to manually log them on their first visit and then check them on their return. This would be disadvantageous to the Council due to the time-consuming nature of this work and the low likelihood of being able to issue any penalty charge notices for offences committed.
- 3.7 The Council has asked James' Places about the possibility of charging for parking in the car park, as per its other pay and display car parks, but has currently not received confirmation about the acceptability of this proposal.
- 3.8 The Council's Car Park Working Group discussed the issue in July 2017 and resolved that any agreement with Holmes Mill should be done under the policies and principles that the Council currently applies. The Council also provided James' Places with information on the types of pay and display machines and signage used by the Council in its car parks.
- 3.9 As of October 2017, no further dialogue has been had with James' Places regarding the issue, but a further report will be submitted to this committee in due course.

4 OLD £1 COIN

The old £1 coin will no longer be legal currency from 15 October 2017. The Council has taken steps to mitigate this issue and all pay and display machines will not accept the coin by this deadline.

5 CONCLUSION

This updates on aspects within the Leisure, and Engineering, sections.

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Old £1 coin – Neil Yates 01200 414528

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