



Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Transport Decision Meeting

Date of meeting: 12 October 2023

Subject: Parking Charges on the Seafront East of South Parade Pier

Report by: Kerri Farnsworth, Interim Director Regeneration

Report Author: Kevin McKee, Parking Manager

Wards affected: Eastney & Craneswater

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** This report presents the comments and objections made as a result of formal consultation on Traffic Regulation Orders to introduce charging on the seafront east of South Parade Pier for on street parking and Canoe Lake Car Park. This is proposed between the start of November to the end of February when there is currently no charge.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Transport considers the comments submitted during the consultation and approves :

- 2.1** The introduction of charging in the on-street parking bays in Southsea Esplanade and Eastney Esplanade, from 1 November to the end of February making the charging all year long. It is further recommended that the charges are the same as during the other months of the year and apply from 8am to 6pm as they do the rest of the year.
- 2.2** To introduce charging in Canoe Lake Car Park from 1 November to the end of February making the charging all year long . It is further recommended that the charges are the same as during the other months of the year and apply from 8am to 8pm as they do the rest of the year.

3. Background



- 3.1 There is currently no charge for parking on the seafront east of South Parade Pier between 1 November and the end of February. However, west of South Parade Pier charges apply all year round.
- 3.2 When the weather is good or there is an event, a high parking demand is generated and there is an imbalance with vehicles concentrating on the eastern side of the seafront and the western side generally sparsely used.
- 3.3 The proposal to introduce charging in the on-street parking was publicised under TRO 256/2023 and the proposed change to on Canoe Lake car park was under TRO 257/2023. The Notices of Intent were published in the Portsmouth News on 11 August and street notices were also erected in the areas affected. The public were invited to send in comments or objections by 1 September 2023.
- 3.4 The public notices are included in Appendices A and B and the comments received in Appendices C and D of this report.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 To address the issue of the mismatch between the two adjacent areas of the seafront the option of charging a different off-peak tariff was considered. However, a more complicated tariff structure can confuse drivers and it is recommended that there is a clear all year tariff at each location.
- 4.2 Furthermore the council wants to promote cleaner air and to encourage people to use other forms of mobility, like walking and cycling and using public transport. Free parking does not make people reconsider their choice of transport.
- 4.3 There were 6 objections to the proposal for on street charges and 4 objections to the proposal for Canoe Lake Car Park. It is important to consider the comments made by each objector, and they are reproduced and redacted in in the appendices C and D of this report.
- 4.4 One of the main themes of the objections is that the charges would impact particularly on local residents who enjoy the seafront when it is less busy and may prevent them visiting. They consider these visits important for mental health and physical fitness. There are some concerns that the charges could push people into parking in nearby residential roads. It is also suggested that the charges could encourage people to go to other seafront locations and affect local businesses.
- 4.5 The City Council's adopted Local Transport Plan (LTP 4)¹ seeks to encourage people to consider alternatives to the car and to use of healthy forms of transport , walk and cycling and public transport instead. A number of the

¹ [Local Transport Plan 4 \(LTP4\) - Portsmouth City Council](#)



objectors are from Southsea and are in walking or cycling distance of the seafront. Accessing the seafront without using a car would improve their physical fitness and potentially boost their mental state. Fewer short journeys by car would also help improve air quality. The City Council is constantly improving the walking and cycling infrastructure to support this change.

- 4.6 If the proposal is approved, free parking would remain on St Helen's Parade and Eastern Parade for up to 3 hours. This parking provides access to main of the businesses on this part of the seafront. In both locations Blue Badge Holders would be able to park for free and without time limit.
- 4.7 It is recommended that to support the objectives of the Councils Local Transport Plan 4 and to address the mismatch between charging on the different areas of the seafront that the charges are introduced as proposed in the advertised Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs).

5. Integrated Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Please see the attached IIA that is outlined in appendix E of this report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The council, as traffic authority for the City of Portsmouth, may by order designate parking places on highways in their area for vehicles or vehicles of any class specified in the order and may make charges for vehicles left in such parking places.
- 6.2 In determining what places can be so designated the council is required to consider both the interests of traffic and those of the owners and occupiers of adjoining property and in particular shall have regard to:
- (a) the need for maintaining the free flow of traffic
 - (b) the need for maintaining reasonable access to premises and
 - (c) the extent to which off-street parking accommodation is available in the neighbourhood
- 6.3 A local authority can by order under section 45 of the 1984 Act designate parking places on the highway (on-street parking), for vehicles or vehicles of any specified class in the order, and may charge for such parking as prescribed under section 46. Such Orders may designate a parking place for use only by such person or vehicles or such person or vehicles of a class specified in the order and may specify that such charges or restrictions are to apply at specified times only. Any variations to such orders must be made by traffic order in the same way as the original order.



- 6.4 A proposed traffic order must be advertised and the statutory consultees notified and given a 3-week period (21 days) in which to register any support or objections. If objections are received to the proposed order the matter must go before the appropriate executive member for a decision whether or not to make the order, taking into account any comments received from the public and/or the statutory consultees during the consultation period.

7. Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1 The introduction of Off-Street charging in Canoe Lake Car Park and On Street charging along Eastney Esplanade between November and February was put forward as an Indicative Budget Saving in Portsmouth City Council's Budget for 2023/24 agreed by Full Council on 28th February 2023.
- 7.2 Should the recommendations in this report not be approved it will be necessary for the Council to seek alternative saving opportunities.

.....
Signed by:

Appendices:

- Appendix A - TRO 256/2023 public notice
- Appendix B - TRO 257/2023 public notice
- Appendix C - consultation responses received as part of TRO 256/2023
- Appendix D - consultation responses received as part of TRO 257/2023
- Appendix E - IIA

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| Title of document | Location |
|-------------------|----------|
| | |
| | |

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

.....
Signed by:

Appendix A

THE PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL (EASTNEY ESPLANADE) (PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 256) ORDER 2023

1. Notice is hereby given that the Portsmouth City Council proposes to make the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect of the Order would be:
 - a) To extend the days on which parking charges apply on the "Pay & Display" parking places on Eastney Esplanade and Southsea Esplanade from 1 March - 31 October to all year round, As detailed in the Schedule below. The tariff would be unchanged and charging hours would remain at 8am - 6pm.
2. Copies of the draft Order and Statement of Reasons are available to view on Portsmouth City Council's website: Search 'Traffic Regulation Orders 2023' at www.portsmouth.gov.uk. Alternatively, they can be viewed at the Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, PO1 2AL, Monday to Friday between 9am - 4pm. Printed copies can be obtained by calling 023 9268 8501.
3. Persons wishing to object to or make other representations with regard to these proposals must do so in writing, stating the grounds on which they are made. Representations must be sent to TROteam@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or by post to TRO Team, Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Portsmouth PO1 2NE, quoting ref TRO 256/2023 within 21 days of the date of this Notice (i.e. by **1 September 2023**) stating the grounds for the objection.

Under requirements of current access to information legislation, please note that all representations submitted in response to this Notice may be made available for public inspection. Full details of the Council's [Data Protection privacy notice](#) can be viewed on the website.

11 August 2023

Felicity Tidbury, Assistant Director of Regeneration (Transport)
Portsmouth City Council

SCHEDULE

| AREA OF HIGHWAY DESIGNATED AS A PARKING PLACE |
|--|
| EASTNEY ESPLANADE The southeast side; (a) from a point 67.3 metres south-west of its junction with Henderson Road in a south-westerly direction for a distance of 119 metres (b) from a point 200 metres south-west of its junction with Henderson Road in a south-westerly direction for a distance of 449 metres (c) from a point 204 metres north-east of the projected east side of St George's Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 277 metres (d) from a point 95 metres north-east of the projected east side of St George's Road in a north-easterly direction for a distance of 88 metres |
| SOUTHSEA ESPLANADE The south side; (a) from a point 45 metres west of a point opposite the centre line of St George's Road to a point 209 metres west of that junction (b) from a point 218 metres west of the projected centre line of St George's Road to a point 430 metres west of that junction (c) from a point 24 metres east of the projected east side of The Ocean At The End Of The Lane in an easterly direction for a distance of 497 metres |

Appendix B

THE PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL (SEAFRONT, CANOE LAKE CAR PARK) (AMENDMENT) (NO. 257) ORDER 2023

4. Notice is hereby given that the Portsmouth City Council proposes to make the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect of the Order would be:
 - b) To extend the days on which parking charges apply in Seafont, Canoe Lake Car Park from 1 March - 31 October to all year round. The tariff will be unchanged, and the charging hours will remain at 8am - 8pm
5. Copies of the draft Order and Statement of Reasons are available to view on Portsmouth City Council's website: Search 'Traffic Regulation Orders 2023' at www.portsmouth.gov.uk. Alternatively, they can be viewed at the Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, PO1 2AL, Monday to Friday between 9am - 4pm. Printed copies can be obtained by calling 023 9268 8501.
6. Persons wishing to object to or make other representations with regard to these proposals must do so in writing, stating the grounds on which they are made. Representations must be sent to TROteam@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or by post to TRO team, Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Portsmouth PO1 2NE, quoting ref TRO 257/2023 within 21 days of the date of this Notice (i.e. by **1 September 2023**) stating the grounds for the objection.

Under requirements of current access to information legislation, please note that all representations submitted in response to this Notice may be made available for public inspection. Full details of the Council's [Data Protection privacy notice](#) can be viewed on the website.

11 August 2023

Felicity Tidbury, Assistant Director of Regeneration (Transport)
Portsmouth City Council

Appendix C

TRO 256/2023 - Southsea and Eastney Esplanades

Formal consultation objections

| |
|--|
| <p>I'd like to register my objection at the introduction of all year parking charges in southsea. Charges were introduced to reduce congestion. There is no congestion in winter. This will prevent local people using the beach for walking and dog walks in particular when we should be encouraging that for fitness and mental health reasons. Equally there are no busses for the east end of southsea sea front. This is just a money making exercise during a cost of living crisis that will adversely hit the pockets and / or physical and mental well being of Portsmouth residents. You should be ashamed of even considering it</p> |
| <p>I don't know why you would want to charge for parking on the eastney end of the beach in winter making it harder for people to enjoy it.I think we should have some free spaces to park to enjoy our beach when it is less crowded .Does it always have to be about money really disappointing please reconsider.</p> |
| <p>Hi I am writing this email to you with regards to the signs you have put up along the beach for parking fees to be applied throughout the winter months.</p> <p>I am so upset. Living in along Southsea seafront and having to put up with limited parking and trolls of visitors that make living in Southsea so busy and hectic in the summer months. The winter months is where I get my solace, and the reason why I moved to Southsea. All that will happen with the parking fees is push people to park in the side streets and making it even harder to park. Since Covid so many people use the sea for swimming and really gives the impression of healthy living. Disabled and elderly people get so much enjoyment sitting along the beach in their cars and looking out to the wonderful view. Dog walkers come. People spend money at Coffee Cup and give's people in the winter a free thing to do We pay so much in council tax. You are taking so much away from people. The seafront will be empty in the week if you implement changes. I will be contacting my local MP.</p> <p>Please listen to your local people please.</p> |
| <p>To whom it may concern</p> <p>I note with dismay the above application. This has been the only perk which people have ever had for the enjoyment of Eastney beach. Ask yourselves who makes use of parking and the beach. Is it not predominantly local people, rather than tourists, who want to have a walk and wander along the beach? Do these people not contribute enough through council tax etc.?</p> <p>It seems a great shame to take this away from people as well as potentially making parking more difficult for residents in adjacent streets, because people will endeavour to park there.</p> <p>What is the council hoping to gain? I'd be happier if more attention was paid to keeping dogs off the beach during the summer months and stop them fouling on the beach as well as accosting swimmers.</p> |

Appendix D

TRO 257/2023 Canoe Lake Car Park

Formal Consultation Objections

Hi, I did send an email earlier but pressed the wrong button and I wasn't finished writing the email. Not very technical so I'm sending the email again in full. I feel very strongly to send an email which I don't do very often but feel very sad about the proposed parking charges from November to March on Southsea Seafront. The seafront will be under used in the winter months if this happens and should be encouraging people to get out and get active with a walk a swim etc along the seafront. The winter months is a lifeline to so many people including me it's a real feel-good factor. us local people share our seafront all through the summer months and winter is mainly used by locals who pay council taxes for our town and to have This proposed parking charges is very sad, and unfortunately people won't do this activity as much or not at all anymore. I know I won't be able to park along the seafront and pay those charges I always use the seafront in the winter months because I don't like crowds so the winter months are so important for me to get out for my mental health and for exercise but there's no way I can afford to pay the charges as I walk most days from my car in the winter. It will affect so many local businesses & people's health in so many ways. I feel very scared that this will happen as my future won't be the same. Please, please really think about doing this it's not the right thing to do. Thank you for your time in reading this.

I would like to object to seafront amendment parking changes. This will be another nail in the coffin for our community. The off season is when locals can use the seafront and is the time when a lot of us enjoy it more due to the quietness of it. It would seem that it's more important to get every penny out of people who especially the local community when we already pay road tax and council tax. The seafront is a huge help to me and many others mental health especially with the current climate with the cost of living it's my get away especially in the winter months when everything seems harder, the heating bills are higher and the days are shorter. The seafront is a little getaway from the costs of life for me and others to get away from it all. I don't think you understand for us of Portsmouth we count down the days until the parking charges stop on the seafront and that's the time we love our seafront most. Please do not take this away from us.

Please could I be told the reasons for the change and the thought process behind this? Why is this come to be an option?

Dear Sir / Madam

I am a resident In Southsea. And can not believe you / the council are going charge people/ residents to have to pay to park on the seafront in the winter months.

For what reasons would you have to do this?

We pay enough council tax as it is and especially in these hard times that everyone is struggling with mortgages rent food bills etc... And now you are going to put in an extra cost for people that go to the seafront to get away from the stresses of life. To go for a swim to help with peoples Mental health!

I think this is shocking and greedy.

And I oppose to these parking charges and I hope you do for once listen to the residents of southsea.

Dear PCC,

Please help us as a community to keep the seafront free of charge for parking during the winter months as it is Portsmouth residents who use this not people visiting here.

I use the seafront every day to go for a swim in the sea and will now be forced to park further away and where residents who live in Southsea will be affected by further pressure on limited parking.

In times where money is limited why charge for this?

Since moving to Portsmouth from the Midlands 2 years ago, believing we had retired to a welcoming, safe city with a lovely, accessible seaside resort, my husband and I have become more and more disillusioned.

I understand the economy has been in state of flux with the energy crisis and the war in the Ukraine. However it feels to us that you just see your council tax payers and locals as a money pit to be bled dry, instead of looking at creative ways to raise income through better promotion of the city, its impressive independent scene and its wonderful heritage.

I strongly object to the recently announced proposal to charge for parking on the seafront all year round. I can fully understand the requirement during the summer and main tourist season. But the proposed extension to all year round is a slap in the face for us locals.

Is it to rinse even more revenue out of residents, maybe more groundwork for your madcap dreams of a 15min city, or just a feeble attempt to drive out the camper vans that seem to take up permanent residence once the tourists have gone home?

If it's the latter perhaps you could first do something about the ones that park on suburban streets; with their gas canisters out on the pavement, or the ones that park near dangerous corners and block access!

This action will drive more of that sort of selfish parking, as well as more cars seeking free spaces into all the side roads, as well as private spaces in some places around the seafront, making parking even more of a nightmare than it already is for the majority of citizens on the island.

For those that swim for health all year round, a quick dip en route to work is becoming an expensive business and to add insult to injury, your impotence in taking on Southern Water and tackling the challenges around local water quality like the Pier area (with pathetic excuses about seagulls) mean that we will pay through the nose to swim in polluted waters all year round now! Terrific!

How about instead of rinsing us locals, you do more to sort the state of the beach when the ravaging hordes have been down. It's one thing keeping the bins empty but how about more patrols, obvious signage and stringent on-the-spot fines for people walking away from their detritus? That might help with revenue generation whilst also sending a strong message to this lazy, self-centred generation of people who expect others to clear up after them. It seems to be working in Southampton!!

And don't even get me started on the potential impact of the whole Aquind scenario, where it seems to me as an observer that your input has been somewhat lukewarm!

If that nightmare scenario happens, the likely loss of any free parking at all in Eastney, the environmental bomb waiting to happen and the ghastly prospect of a gridlocked city for years to come are making us seriously wonder about our retirement dream!

Please reconsider this proposal.

Re: Introduction of all year parking charges at Eastney & Southsea Esplanades and Canoe Lake car park. I'm most disappointed to learn of this by Portsmouth City Council. Will this not lead to loss of business for the traders of the seafront and more congestion on local streets and probably fewer visitors in the winter months to Southsea? Additionally, visitors from further afield could decide to visit other south coast resorts where there are cheaper or no car parking charges in the winter months. Others affected will include shore anglers, dog walkers, and others who cannot for various reasons use the seafront between 6:00pm and 8:00am or use public transport during peak hours and have to rely on their cars for transport.