

Contact Name: *Jan Debnam*

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Date: *21 October 2014*

NOTIFICATION OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISIONS

On 20 October 2014 Cllr Vickers, the Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder, made the following decisions. Any member of the Council, who is not a Portfolio Holder, who considers that these decisions should be reviewed should give notice to the Monitoring Officer (Grainne O'Rourke) (in writing or by e-mail) to be received **ON OR BY TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2014**.

Details of the documents the Portfolio Holder considered are attached.

DECISION:

- (a) To suspend car parking charges in all Council car parks on Saturday 6 December 2014 to celebrate Small Business Saturday; and
- (b) That town and parish councils be invited to nominate a day in the 4 week period immediately prior to Christmas Eve 2014 on which car parking charges will be suspended in their area.

REASON(S):

To support small businesses and community events in the run up to Christmas

ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

As set out in the report considered by the Portfolio Holder

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED:

None

For Further Information Please Contact:

John Bull
Parking Manager
Tel: 023 8028 5588
E-mail: john.bull@nfdc.gov.uk

SUSPENSION OF PARKING CHARGES FOR 2 DAYS IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS:

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Last year the Council supported the national initiative "Small Business Saturday" by providing free parking. This year, Small Business Saturday is being held on 6th December 2014. In addition to this, in each of the last five years, town and parish councils have been given the option to nominate an afternoon when car parking charges are suspended to support specific local events in the run-up to Christmas. This report seeks the approval of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation to repeat these initiatives in 2014.

2. SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY - 6 DECEMBER 2014

- 2.1 Small Business Saturday is a national initiative to encourage people to use and support local independent shops and business. The Council wish to support this initiative, as it did last year, by suspending car park charges during the event. The launch of the 2015 Brand New Forest Card and celebration of Lymington being awarded Brand New Forest Town 2015 status will also coincide with Small Business Saturday.

3. SUSPENSION OF PARKING CHARGES TO ASSIST LOCALLY ARRANGED EVENTS

- 3.1 Because the half day free parking coincided with events run by local organisations the car parks were very busy during the period for which charges were suspended. It is believed that the suspension of charges encouraged people to attend the various events.
- 3.2 Virtually all neighbouring authorities offer some form of concessionary parking over Christmas.
- 3.3 In the past the Council has limited the suspension of parking to half a day. It is recommended that this be extended to a full day in order to avoid any confusion for car park users and to provide flexibility as to when events start. From an operational view point suspending charges for a full day does assist in providing clear information to car park users.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME AND DISORDER AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. The concession would however assist local businesses and support community events, which have general benefits for the area.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost to the Council can be contained within existing budgets.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Waiving parking charges for Small Business Saturday and when locally arranged Christmas events take place helps promote local business and maintain the viability of our towns and villages. Over the last 5 years the take up, by town and parish councils, of the offer of suspending parking charges to coincide with locally arranged Christmas events has been very high.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That parking charges be suspended in all Council car parks on the 6th December 2014 to celebrate Small Business Saturday; and

6.1 That the Council invite town and parish councils to nominate a day in the 4 week period immediately prior to Christmas Eve 2014 on which car parking charges will be suspended in their area.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

7.1 I agree to the recommendation above.

Signed F P VICKERS

Dated 20 October 2014

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| For Further Information please contact: John Bull Parking Manager Tel: 023 8028 5949 Email: john.bull@nfdc.gov.uk | Background Papers: |
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Date notification of this Decision given – 21 October 2014

Last date for call-in – 28 October 2014