

CABINET – 4 OCTOBER 2023

PORTFOLIO: ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABILITY

ANNUAL FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024 – CAR PARKING AND KEYHAVEN MOORINGS

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Cabinet recommend that Council approve:

- i. that the 2024 town & village and amenity car park tariffs be increased by £1.00 per tariff, except for the 1-hour tariff which will remain at £1.00, and the “up to 20 hours” tariff which will increase by £3.
- ii. that the 1-hour tariff is applicable in all car parks throughout the year.
- iii. that the increase in charges for NFDC parking clocks be agreed; namely;
 - Short stay annual clocks from £30.00 to £40.00
 - Long stay annual clocks from £140.00 to £220.00
 - Long stay quarterly clocks from £40.00 to £65.00
- iv. that the Council allocate 4 days of free parking in town centre car parks to support local businesses during December 2023, as detailed in section 7 of the report.
- v. that the Keyhaven fees and charges as detailed at Appendix A to this report be approved.
- vi. That the intention to develop a Parking Strategy is noted.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 New Forest District Council’s parking and Keyhaven river fees and charges are set annually in early Autumn. This is in order that they can be advertised and implemented for the start of the calendar year.
- 2.2 At the same time, the parking arrangements in support of local businesses for the Christmas period have historically been considered and published each autumn to allow time for those towns who benefit from this to plan for us to make the necessary suspension arrangements.
- 2.3 Members will note that the setting of fees and charges, because of the likely budgetary implications, will ultimately be a decision for Full Council as defined by the Council’s financial regulations.

3. BACKGROUND – CAR PARKS

- 3.1 NFDC has 44 pay and display car parks in the district. A total of 30 of these are known as “town and village” car parks, and these car parks have the same charges all year round. Car Park charges in the in these car parks have not increased since 2018.

- 3.2 Fourteen pay and display car parks are in coastal areas and are known as “amenity” car parks. These car parks have a different charging structure in summer (April-September) compared to winter. These car parks are also split into Higher (4 car parks) and Lower (10 car parks) Amenity Tariffs, depending on the usage levels of each car park. Our summer amenity charges were increased by £1.00 per tariff in 2021 and at the same time the summer charging period in these car parks was reduced by 2 months to give a more reasonable winter/summer tariff split that more accurately reflected the usage of these car parks, thus also allowing the ‘cheaper’ winter tariff to apply for 2 more months each year. Winter charges in the amenity car parks have not increased since 2018.
- 3.3 There are also 4 free small car parks at Ashurst, Eling Cemetery (Totton), Bransgore and Pennington Bank (Lymington).
- 3.4 As well as pay and display, the council offers both short (town and village up to 3 hour) and long stay (district-wide up to 20 hrs) parking clocks. These have not increased in price since 2022. These were used by over 32,000 people last year and represent incredibly good value for local car parking.
- 3.5 The Council has not historically raised car parking fees and charges consistently, nor as a minimum in line with inflation. In some cases, fees have not risen since 2018. Based on CPI, charges that have not been increased with inflation since 2018 are already nearly 40 per cent behind where they would have been if an inflationary increase had been applied annually.
- 3.6 As part of our annual review of our parking charges, we benchmark our charges against similar local authorities. This is shown in the tables below.
- 3.7 NFDC manage the Keyhaven river where we have 250 swinging and fore and aft moorings, 114 wall moorings, 123 dinghy park and 21 grass bank spaces. We offer a 10% discount to annual mooring holders who pay by direct debit, and it is planned to continue this in 2024.
- 3.8 Keyhaven fees and charges are used to provide our river warden services plus cover our administration team costs and mooring maintenance. We have reduced our maintenance costs over the past 2 years as a result of replacing the river moorings in 2021. In the next year we will look to conduct a full survey of moorings and use contractors to replace risers, shackles and swivels where required.

4. CAR PARK CHARGES

- 4.1 Following a comprehensive review, the following changes are proposed to come into force from 1st January 2024. These increases will address the rising costs of providing and maintaining car parks in light of inflation over the last 6 years and brings the charges more in line with comparable authorities.
- 4.2 Town and Village Centre Car Parks
- These tariffs have been frozen since 2018.
 - It is proposed to increase charges by £1.00 across all tariffs except:
 - the 1-hour tariff which will remain at £1.
 - The “up to 20 hours” tariff which will increase by £3, which is more in line with benchmarked councils.

4.3 Amenity Car Parks

- The winter tariff has been frozen since 2018, and the summer tariff since 2021.
- In comparison with other coastal car park areas on the South Coast, our short and long-term parking charges are low, and it is suggested that a £1.00 increase across all tariffs is applied throughout the year, except:
 - the 1-hour tariff which will remain at £1.
 - The “up to 20 hours” tariff which will increase by £3, which is more in line with benchmarked councils.
- It is also recommended that the £1.00 for 1-hour parking charge be allowed 12 months of the year so short-term parking of an hour is allowed in the summer months as well as winter.

4.4 These proposals retain the cap on the first hour at £1.00 as a way of continuing to support local businesses and high streets. Whilst there is no conclusive evidence of economic benefit, it is understood to be valued as an initiative by local businesses.

4.5 Current tariffs, proposed charges and benchmarking information are all shown below. Benchmarked prices are applicable to the current year and may increase next year in line with respective budget setting.

4.6 Town and Village Centre Car Parks (all year round)

Duration (Hours)	Current NFDC tariff	Proposed tariff 2024	Fareham Town centre (low/high)	Christchurch Town tariff
1	£1.00	£1.00 (no increase)	£1.00/£1.50	N/A
2	£2.00	£3.00	£2.00/£3	£1.20
3	£2.50	£3.50	£3/£4.50	£3.00
4	£3.00	£4.00	£4/£6	£4.00
5	£4.00	£5.00	£5/£7.50	
20	£5.00	£8.00	£12/£18	

4.7 Winter (Oct-Mar) - Higher Amenity Tariffs

Duration (Hours)	Current NFDC tariff	Proposed tariff 2024	Fareham Amenity	Christchurch Sea front
1	£1.00	£1.00 (no increase)	£1.10	£2.10
2	£2.00	£3.00	£2.20	£3.70
4	£4.00	£5.00	£4.40	£6.50
6	£6.00	£7.00	£6.60	
20	£8.00	£11.00	£13.20 (max 12 hrs)	£15.10 (12hrs)

4.8 Winter (Oct-Mar) – Lower Amenity Tariffs

Duration (Hours)	Current NFDC tariff	Proposed tariff 2024	Fareham Amenity	Christchurch Sea front
1	£1.00	£1.00 (no increase)	£1.10	£2.10
2	£2.00	£3.00	£2.20	£3.70
4	£3.00	£4.00	£4.40	£6.50
6	£4.50	£5.50	£6.60	
20	£6.00	£9.00	£13.20 (max 12 hrs)	£15.10 (12hrs)

4.9 Summer (Apr-Sep) – Higher Amenity Tariff

Duration (Hours)	Current NFDC tariff	Proposed tariff 2024	Fareham Amenity	Christchurch Sea front
1	Not available	£1.00	£1.10	£2.80
2	£3.00	£4.00	£2.20	£5.50
4	£5.00	£6.00	£4.40	£8.30
6	£7.00	£8.00	£6.60	£12.40
20	£9.00	£12.00	£13.20 (max 12 hrs)	£20.40 (24hrs)

4.10 Summer (Apr-Sep) – Lower Amenity Tariff

Duration (Hours)	Current NFDC tariff	Proposed tariff 2024	Fareham Amenity	Christchurch Sea front
1	Not available	£1.00	£1.10	£2.80
2	£3.00	£4.00	£2.20	£5.50
4	£4.00	£5.00	£4.40	£8.30
6	£5.50	£6.50	£6.60	£12.40
20	£7.00	£10.00	£13.20 (max 12 hrs)	£20.40 (24hrs)

5. PARKING CLOCK CHARGES

5.1 The council sold and issued circa 32,000 car parking clocks in 2023. These are either a short stay car park clock (up to 3 hours) at £30 per year and a long stay car park clock (up to 20 hours). Long stay clocks are available to purchase on both an annual (£140) and a quarterly (£40) basis. Prices of clocks were frozen in 2023.

5.2 Parking clocks are a facility that by comparison most Councils do not offer at all, preferring a “season ticket” style tariff e.g., Chichester annual permit £704, Fareham £520, Test Valley £680. These comparators suggest the parking clocks are currently priced very low. It is therefore not unreasonable, considering this, and the Councils Medium Term Financial Position, to levy an increase to the purchase cost of the clocks.

5.3 Short stay “shoppers” clocks:

- The current annual cost is £30.00. An increase to £40.00 is recommended.
- This would still mean that a resident using a short stay parking pass just once a week to pop into town would be paying less than £1 a week to park.

5.4 Long stay clocks

- Current annual cost for 2023 is £140.00. An increase to £220.00 is recommended.
- Based on usage of a clock on 220 days a year, this new fee still only equates to £1 per day if parking all day in an NFDC car park whilst at work.
- Current cost for a quarterly clock is £40.00. An increase to £65.00 is recommended.

6. FREE PARKING DAYS IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL BUSINESSES

6.1 In addition to the above charges the council would also like to confirm its intention to have 4 days this year (2023) when charges do not apply in town and village centre car parks to assist businesses. These days are:

- Small Business Saturday (this year on the 2nd of December 2023)
- The last weekend before Christmas (16th/17th December 2023)
- An additional day where Town and Parish Councils may request free parking in support of their Christmas events.

7. PARKING STRATEGY

7.1 Car parking is an important council service which impacts upon residents, businesses, visitors, and the environment. A new "Parking Strategy" is needed to guide the long-term development of this service. Such a strategy will consider, as a minimum:

- A strategic review of car park assets including investment and maintenance;
- The policy framework that considers the role of parking in town and village economic vitality, and transport policy and environmental objectives;
- The use of technology to ensure the service is sustainable into the future;
- Future charging policies including assessment of the benefits of the current differential charging policy (for example summer versus winter and higher versus lower amenity fees), versus a uniform charging policy which could rationalise the tariffs overall and simplify our charging regime.

8. KEYHAVEN FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024

8.1 It is proposed to increase all charges at Keyhaven, as detailed at Appendix A, by 10% in 2024. Our fees and charges are comparable with Lymington and Hamble River mid-stream moorings but unlike these places we do not have long waiting lists.

8.2 Beyond those comparisons, benchmarking is difficult due to key differences between Keyhaven and these other locations. For example, Lymington has walk-on pontoons with fees starting above £4K per annum and good shoreside facilities. NFDC does not provide shore side facilities. In addition, the Keyhaven moorings are very limited by tide and river width constraints meaning most are only accessible a couple of hours either side of High water. Lymington and Hamble River do not have these issues. Like-for-like comparisons of mooring fees must be considered in line with this information, and it is felt that the proposed fee increases are fair and reasonable, allowing for increases in inflation which impact upon operating costs.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are now 26 fast (22Kwh) and 15 rapid (50Kwh) Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP's) operating over 15 of our car parks. Each month over 23,000Kwh of green electricity is used to charge vehicles in our car parks, with a reduction of

25,000 Kgs of CO2 emissions. These EVCP's encourage visitors to the area and help support the local economy whilst reducing emissions overall which improves air quality in the district, with plans to install at least 2 rapid charging 'hubs' in 2024.

9.2 Our ticket machines are solar powered. All means of parking are accessible to all our car park users including blue badge holders.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER AND DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none.

11. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 All our ticket machines are DDA compliant with coin and card slots at the correct height and flush mounted (e.g., not on plinths) to allow Wheelchair users to access them with a sufficient clearance to allow wheelchair users to manoeuvre in the vicinity of the ticket machine.

11.2 To support Blue Badge holders, we will continue to provide free parking to valid Blue Badge holders.

12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Assuming that car park usage and parking clock purchases remain consistent in 2024, the proposals within this report will lead to the following in 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years:

	23/24 budget (no price increase), £000s	23/24 budget (with price increase), £000s	24/25 budget (no price increase), £000s	24/25 budget (with price increase), £000s
Meter income from pay and display car parks	2,263	2,375	2,263	2,866
Income from parking clocks	1,320	1,471	1,320	1,995

12.2 The proposed charges for Keyhaven will result in an increase of up to £18k pa.

12.3 The additional revenue that will be generated as a result of these fee increases will support the delivery of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and will seek to provide capacity funding for corporate plan delivery.

13. CONCLUSION

13.1 The setting of fees and charges will necessarily consider the current economic climate, not least recent inflationary pressures, and cost of living, as well as the desire to support the economic viability of our town centres and supporting the journey towards net zero.

13.2 Increasing fees for 2024 is nevertheless a reasonable step in the context of many charges being frozen, for up to 6 years, and our position in relation to comparable

Councils which demonstrate our current good value for money, in particular, in relation to parking clocks.

- 13.3 There are many further themes for future consideration that it is important to put on the table, and which currently make up our holistic approach. In a large part, as described above, their review is best served through the development of an evidentially based district wide parking strategy. This strategy will be supported by a Member task and Finish Group.

14. COMMENTS OF THE PLACE AND SUSTAINABILITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

- 14.1 The Panel endorsed the recommendations contained within the report. The Panel discussed the report and some members expressed concern over the increases to car parking charges. Other panel members spoke in support of the proposed fees and charges, explaining how, after several years of price freezes in most of the car parks, it was a reasonable increase that would contribute to the effective running of Council services.

15. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 15.1 I was pleased to attend the Place and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Panel to hear the debate of members on this issue. We have sought to take a balanced approach in the current economic climate, and I am supportive of the proposed way forwards.
- 15.2 The development of the Parking Strategy is essential and I am supportive of the proposal for a Task and Finish Group to inform the development of that piece of work.

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Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

- A. Proposed annual fees and charges Keyhaven River for 2024

Appendix A

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO								% CHANGE		
PROPOSED SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024								10%		
				Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Increase	Increase	Charges including VAT at 20%		
				2023	2024	£	%	Current	Proposed	Non NFDC Council tax payers 50% Surcharge
With effect from 1st January to 31st December 2024				£	£	£	%			
All prices shown excluding VAT.										
KEYHAVEN RIVER										
Waiting Lists										
Note: Waiting list fee will be discounted off first years mooring fees once offer of annual mooring accepted.										
Waiting List Fee	Moorings			45.00	49.50	4.50	10.0	54.00	59.40	59.40
	Dinghy Park			45.00	49.50	4.50	10.0	54.00	59.40	59.40
	Annual Admin Fee			9.00	9.90	0.90	10.0	10.80	11.90	11.90
Licence Fees - Private Moorings (12 months)				135.00	148.50	13.50	10.0	162.00	178.20	N/A
Mooring Fees (including licence Fee and River dues)										
Small (M2)				405.00	445.50	40.50	10.0	486.00	534.60	801.90
Medium (M3)				450.00	495.00	45.00	10.0	540.00	594.00	891.00
Medium + (M4)				540.00	594.00	54.00	10.0	648.00	712.80	1,069.20
Large (M5)				810.00	891.00	81.00	10.0	972.00	1,069.20	1,603.80
Large + (M6)				990.00	1,089.00	99.00	10.0	1,188.00	1,306.80	1,960.20
Wall Moorings										
Suitable for less than 12 feet and/or less than 15 hp (M1)				315.00	346.50	31.50	10.0	378.00	415.80	623.70
Suitable for 12 feet or more and/or 15 hp or more (M3)				450.00	495.00	45.00	10.0	540.00	594.00	891.00
Dinghy Park										
Dinghy Park	per space per annum			270.00	297.00	27.00	10.0	324.00	356.40	534.60
Seasonal Let										
	Per week (October to March)			13.50	14.85	1.35	10.0	16.20	17.80	
	Per week (April, May & Sep)			22.50	24.75	2.25	10.0	27.00	29.70	
	Per week (June, July & August)			36.00	39.60	3.60	10.0	43.20	47.50	
Grass Bank										
	Per annum			180.00	198.00	18.00	10.0	216.00	237.60	356.40
Specific Groups										
Fisherman Association	Wall mooring			45.00	49.50	4.50	10.0	54.00	59.40	
Keyhaven Sea Scouts	Seasons launching			0.00	0.00	-	0.0	0.00	0.00	

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY PORTFOLIO
PROPOSED SCALE OF FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2024

	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Increase £	Increase %	Charges including VAT	
	2023 £	2024 £			Current	Proposed
With effect from 1st January to 31st December 2024						
All prices shown excluding VAT.						
<u>KEYHAVEN RIVER</u>						
River Dues (includes launching fees)						
Single launch						
Kayaks Canoes and paddleboards	9.00	9.90	0.90	10.0	10.80	11.90
Sailing vessels and/or engine size 5hp or less	9.00	9.90	0.90	10.0	10.80	11.90
Boats with engine size over 5hp to 10 hp	13.50	14.85	1.35	10.0	16.20	17.80
Boats with engine size over 10hp to 50 hp	22.50	24.75	2.25	10.0	27.00	29.70
Boats with engine size over 50 hp	45.00	49.50	4.50	10.0	54.00	59.40
Personal water craft (Jet Skis)	83.33	91.66	8.33	10.0	100.00	110.00
Season launch						
Kayaks Canoes and paddleboards	27.00	29.70	2.70	10.0	32.40	35.60
Sail boats and/or engine 5hp or less	27.00	29.70	2.70	10.0	32.40	35.60
Boats with engine size over 5hp to 10 hp	45.00	49.50	4.50	10.0	54.00	59.40
Boats with engine size over 10hp to 50 hp	90.00	99.00	9.00	10.0	108.00	118.80
Boats with engine size over 50 hp	180.00	198.00	18.00	10.0	216.00	237.60
Moving boat to allow for mooring maintenance	36.00	39.60	3.60	10.0	43.20	47.50
Anchorage/Visitor Moorings						
Per night						
Anchorage	9.00	9.90	0.90	10.0	10.80	11.90
Large Mooring (for over 27ft)	18.00	19.80	1.80	10.0	21.60	23.80
Medium/small Mooring (up to 27ft)	13.50	14.85	1.35	10.0	16.20	17.80
Quayside	27.00	29.70	2.70	10.0	32.40	35.60
Per week						
Anchorage	45.00	49.50	4.50	10.0	54.00	59.40
Large Mooring (for over 27ft)	72.00	79.20	7.20	10.0	86.40	95.04
Medium/small Mooring (up to 27ft)	63.00	69.30	6.30	10.0	75.60	83.20
Quayside	See note	See note				
Note: Only in exceptional circumstances - speak to river warden first						
Short stay (less than 4 hours)						
Anchorage	5.40	5.94	0.54	10.0	6.48	7.10
Moorings	9.00	9.90	0.90	10.0	10.80	11.90
Quayside	10.80	11.88	1.08	10.0	12.96	14.30

NOTE: VAT. Charges are exclusive of VAT.

Charges which are zero rated or not subject to VAT are marked * either individually or by service.