

Fireworks Display – Helensburgh Pier car park

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report seeks homologation of the decision to suspend parking charges for the annual Round Table Helensburgh Fireworks display in the Pier car park. This required the car park to be closed for a brief period time, resulting in an estimated loss of car parking income to the Council of £300-£500. In accordance with Council Parking Policy a suspension of charges would normally require Council approval however this was not achieved within the Committee timeframes and therefore a decision was reached under delegated authority in consultation with the Area Chair and the Ward Members.

1.2 It is recommended that Members:

- (a) Note the process undertaken and homologate the decision to approve a temporary suspension of parking charges in relation to Helensburgh Pier car park.
- (b) Approve the delegation of responsibility to the Executive Director to waive the charge for loss of car parking income for established annual festivals (e.g. fireworks displays) up to a maximum of £1,000.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 A request was received from the Helensburgh & District Round Table for permission to host a fireworks display in Helensburgh pier car park (behind the swimming baths) and to utilise the main pier for the fireworks display. This is an annual community event which takes place at the same location every year.

2.2 The event required the car park to be closed for a brief period time, resulting in an estimated loss of car parking income to the Council of £300-£500. In accordance with Council Parking Policy a suspension of charges would normally require Council approval however this was not achieved within the Committee timeframes and therefore a decision was reached under delegated authority in consultation with the Area Chair and the Ward Members.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that Members:

(b) Note the process undertaken and homologate the decision to approve a temporary suspension of parking charges in relation to Helensburgh Pier car park.

(b) Approve the delegation of responsibility to the Executive Director to waive the charge for loss of car parking income for established annual festivals (e.g. fireworks displays) up to a maximum of £1,000.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 A request was received from Helensburgh & District Round Table for permission to host a Fireworks Display in Helensburgh pier car park (behind the swimming baths) and to utilise the main pier for the Fireworks Display.

- 4.2 The car park was sectioned off with the assistance of the police from 6.00pm on the evening of Friday 4th November 2016 until the end of the display on Saturday 5th November 2016 with the area being cleared on the morning of Sunday 6th November 2016
- 4.3 The estimated loss of income from car parking as result of this event was £300 - £500. As this is a key community event which is non-profit making, no charge was made to the Round Table.
- 4.4 The parking policy delegates the decision to hold such an event to the Head of Service, however where such an event causes a loss of income this should be approved by Committee.
- 4.5 At short notice it was not possible to take a paper to Full Council in advance of the event, therefore on 13th October the 4 Helensburgh Central Ward Councillors (including the area chair) were advised of the position and that a paper would be taken to Committee retrospectively. No issues were highlighted as a consequence of this consultation.
- 4.6 There is programme of established annual events that occur across Argyll where a similar situation may occur, with potential loss of car parking income. The parking policy states that where possible any loss of car parking income should be recouped by charging the event organisers. If this is not practical or desirable e.g. for non-profit making community events, Committee must waive the charge.
- 4.7 The involvement of Committee seems unnecessarily bureaucratic for established community festivals where only a small loss of income is anticipated. This report seeks to delegate responsibility to the Executive Director to waive the charge where appropriate. If approved the Parking Policy will be updated to reflect this change.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This report fulfills the obligation to inform Committee of this situation and seek homologation of the decision. The report also seeks a change to the Parking Policy to allow this type of decision to be delegated to the Executive Director in future.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Policy – modification to Parking Policy to delegate responsibility to the Executive Director for waiving the charge for loss of car parking income for established annual festivals (e.g. fireworks displays) up to a maximum of £1,000.
- 4.2 Financial – estimated loss of income of £300 - £500 for this event, and up to £1,000 for future similar events.

4.3 Legal - none

4.4 HR - none

4.5 Equalities - none

4.6 Risk - none

4.7 Customer Service – positive benefit to the community of a successful and popular community event. Quicker and easier approval process in future.

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