

LUSS CAR PARK – TEMPORARY PORTALOO FACILITIES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Scottish Government Route Map began relaxing COVID-19 measures across Scotland in May 2020. One of the measures was the opening of car parks and National Parks. As part of this, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park had risk assessed their public conveniences sited at Luss and found they were not fit for purpose under the Return from Lockdown Health and Safety conditions being imposed.
- 1.2 Several partnership meetings were held with Argyll and Bute Council where it was suggested that 10 portaloos be sited within the current Luss Car Park. Appropriate checks were made in respect of physical distancing as well as risk assessments regarding queuing within the car park with moving vehicles and it was agreed the safest place for 10 portaloos was within 8 parking spaces at the north section of the car park behind the old visitor centre.
- 1.3 As part of the Argyll and Bute Council Fees and Charges, set by Full Council, the Council charge for the use of any parking bays within our car parks. This was raised with the Chief Executive and forwarded to the Council Leadership meeting where a decision was made on 2 July 2020, due to the exceptional circumstances, to suspend charging for the bays from 4 July 2020 until the end of September where a report would be brought back to the September Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee.
- 1.4 It is recommended that Members agree that in the event of the National Park confirming on 13 September, the continued use of the parking bays, to recommend to Council that the charges for the parking bays continue to be waived for the rest of the financial year.

LUSS CAR PARK – TEMPORARY PORTALOO FACILITIES

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details income lost due to the temporary siting of portaloos facilities at Luss car park.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members agree that in the event of the National Park confirming on 13 September, the continued use of the parking bays, to recommend to Council that the charges for the parking bays continue to be waived for the rest of the financial year.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 Luss, Duck Bay and Arrochar car parks have seen a marked increase in visitors since the relaxation of Lockdown. The feedback from Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park is that the portaloos are very well used and at this time they are still unable to utilise their own public toilets. The National Park are also utilising portaloos in other areas such as Loch Katrine and at this time are unable to confirm when they will be able to fully utilise their facilities and remove the portaloos.
- 4.2 Feedback from Argyll and Bute Council wardens is that the portaloos are in the safest position for pedestrians, however when the Luss Car Park is full they are causing congestion as the general area around the bays was previously used as a turning circle, therefore cars struggle to turn and exit this section of the car park. It is still however acknowledged that this is the safest area for pedestrian usage.
- 4.3 Contact was made with the Loch Lomond National Park on 28 July 2020 who confirmed they are looking to reduce the number of Portaloos as well as open their own public toilet block as soon as it is safe to do so. At this time they do not have a timeline, however officers have requested that an update be provided prior to Friday 13 September 2020 to allow time to consider an extension to the suspension of the car parking bay charges, or, ideally the removal of the temporary toilet units.

- 4.4 The current situation was put in place as a temporary measure. Whilst the measure provides a toilet facility it also reduces the car parking capacity. It is officer's preference that the toilet units can be either relocated within the landscaped areas to make available the full car park to ensure that full off street parking opportunities are available or alternatively that the use of the original block is reinstated. This would provide the full number of parking bays available to the public and would also complement the temporary traffic regulation order which has been promoted to ease traffic within the village of Luss.
- 4.5 Argyll and Bute Council normally charge for the use of our bays, this would be at a cost of £9 per bay per day. However, in the spirit of collaboration and partnership working, charges have not been recovered to date and it is recommended that if the National Park have a continued need to utilise the car parking bay for the siting of the portaloos, that this arrangement is extended.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report details temporary arrangements to enable additional portable toilets to be accommodated within parking bays at Luss car park.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1	Policy	In line with Council's Fees and Charges 2020-21
6.2	Financial	8 parking bays which would normally charge £9 per day
6.3	Legal	None
6.4	HR	None
6.5	Equalities /Fairer Scotland Duty	None
6.6	Risk	None
6.7	Customer Services	None

Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services
Kirsty Flanagan

Head of Roads and Infrastructure
Jim Smith

Policy Lead Councillor Robin Currie
August 2020

For further information contact: Hugh O'Neill, Network and Standards Manager
01546 604033