

## **Appendix 2 – ‘In time’ comments on proposals received during Formal Consultation stage.**

### **Aberystwyth Business Club**

The Business Club broadly agrees with the proposals and welcomes standardising and reducing season tickets across the county council. We are concerned about the higher cost of Lower Park Avenue (£600 a year) however. We feel that we should be offering free parking (Lower Park Ave only, for example) on the outskirts of town, to incentivize people to walk in (encouraging active travel) and move towards the reduction of free parking in town to reduce the traffic in town searching for parking, and therefore hopefully increasing the experience of visitors, residents and traders alike. The search for free parking is particularly a problem in areas of ‘Old Town’ which causes issues for residents and business owners.

### **Response provided to Aberystwyth Business Club at the time in relation to queries raised:**

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of Aberystwyth Business Club.

As outlined in the consultation document, only comments related to the proposals put forward will be reviewed and considered as part of this process.

I can confirm that comments which are relevant to the proposals have been noted as part of the consultation process.

In reviewing your response, I would like to confirm that the £600 Season Ticket fee proposed for Lower Park Avenue referred to relates only to vehicles coming under the category of HGV. This fee would apply at this car park as this is the only car park in Aberystwyth that allows parking by vehicles coming under the category of HGV.

### **Aberystwyth Town Council**

Dear Ceredigion County Council,

We write to provide you with our response to the stakeholder consultation on Proposed changes to the Ceredigion County Council Off Street Parking Places order. Whilst we are supportive and welcome the efforts being made to increase off street parking provision in Aberystwyth, unfortunately we are unable to full support these proposals due to the lack of any flood risk assessment on the impact of the proposed changes to Maes yr Afon car park. These proposals should be re-submitted for consultation with a full flood risk assessment completed on Maes yr Afon car park and all of the surrounding streets. Currently, the car park has a natural slope, which carries water away from the houses and down; re-levelling of the car park as part of these proposals could inadvertently remove this and increase flood

risk in the area. Clarification should also be given on whether the wall in between the car park and houses has any flood defence value or not.

We would also like to raise the following points and questions regarding the proposals:

- Why is Lower Park Avenue car park still more expensive than other car parks?
- If season ticket prices are to be reduced, will those who have already purchase one be issued any refund?
- Can parking permits be considered for commuters and those who work in Aberystwyth?
- The proposals state that season tickets will be available for North Road car park, to residents of a specified area. Appendix 2, which is supposed to be a map of said area, is blank. How large will this area be?

Response provided to Aberystwyth Town Council at the time in relation to queries raised:

Further to your correspondence please see below responses in *italics* to the queries raised.

1. Whilst we are supportive and welcome the efforts being made to increase off street parking provision in Aberystwyth, unfortunately we are unable to full support these proposals due to the lack of any flood risk assessment on the impact of the proposed changes to Maes yr Afon car park. These proposals should be re-submitted for consultation with a full flood risk assessment completed on Maes yr Afon car park and all of the surrounding streets. Currently, the car park has a natural slope, which carries water away from the houses and down; re-levelling of the car park as part of these proposals could inadvertently remove this and increase flood risk in the area. Clarification should also be given on whether the wall in between the car park and houses has any flood defence value or not.

*The proposed extension of Maesyrafon Car Park extends only to areas which are already covered by impermeable surfaces and the proposal includes an appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage System.*

*The current wall is not considered to have any flood defence value.*

*Should you have any comments related to the construction design related elements of this proposal these should be made via the planning application process – application number A240660.*

2. Why is Lower Park Avenue car park still more expensive than other car parks?

*The Council is unclear as to how you have come to this conclusion. Lower Park Avenue proposed scale of charges is the same as the charges applicable for all locations covered by the Coastal Band and the Season Tickets available for cars, motorcycles and vans up to 3.5t (excluding motorhomes and campervans) in long stay car parks including Lower Park Avenue.*

*There is a separate specific HGV season ticket rates which are applicable in Lower Park Avenue Car Park, Aberystwyth along with Fairfield, Mwdan and Quay Street, Cardigan; Rookery, Lampeter and Church Road, New Quay which are the car parks that will permit parking by this class of vehicle.*

3. If season ticket prices are to be reduced, will those who have already purchase one be issued any refund?

*There are no intentions to offer pro-rated refunds to those who have already purchased a season ticket if this new proposal is implemented. The current fees and charges already provide a significant discount on the cost of parking in Aberystwyth. This is in the same way that a person purchasing a ticket in March for 12 months was not required to pay the increase in costs as a result of any fee increases applied April as part of the fees and charges setting process.*

*However, existing permits will be afforded the benefit of their current car park specific permit being valid in other long stay car parks in Aberystwyth (excluding North Road unless the permit was purchased for that car park) and other locations across the County, if the proposals are implemented.*

4. Can parking permits be considered for commuters and those who work in Aberystwyth?

*Season Tickets are already available to these groups and there is no intention to provide any separate system.*

5. The proposals state that season tickets will be available for North Road car park, to residents of a specified area. Appendix 2, which is supposed to be a map of said area, is blank. How large will this area be?

*There appears to have been a formatting error when the consultation document was converted to PDF, for which we apologise. Please see attached plan denoting the proposed area.*

## **Cardigan Town Council**

Cardigan Town Council Councillors wish to respond to the Proposals as set out in Appendix 1 as follows:

1. To change the designation of Gloster Row / Red Lion Car Park, Cardigan. Councillors request that this car park change to a season ticket holder car park with the added availability of it being free to residents who live nearby and apply for a parking permit from the county council.

2. To change the designation of Pendre Car Park, Cardigan.  
Councillors request that half of this car park return to the permit holder system for local businesses and half be utilised as a short stay (2-hour max stay) car park.
3. Simplification of charges / tariffs across the County.  
Councillors wish to remove the two bands of charges being applied and to keep the rates for Ceredigion Coastal and Ceredigion Inland at the same standard tariff. Councillors also feel that the new proposed charging bands to be excessive and will drive custom out of our town centres to stores that can offer free parking. They request that the tariffs be reduced.

We have no further comments.

## **Ceredigion Disability Forum**

As the nominated representative for Ceredigion Disability Forum, I submit our feedback to this consultation.

### **1. Changes to Season Ticket offering**

These proposals make a lot of sense, and we support them. We are concerned however that 40 tickets at North Road Car Park will not be sufficient for the residents and workers at properties in the area noted in the map at Appendix 2. There are around 360 residencies on the map.

Are you able to clarify please, whether Blue Badge holders that live in the properties noted in the map will be able to apply for a season ticket at North Road Car Park for no charge?

### **2. To extend Maesyrafon Car Park in Aberystwyth into the former Arriva Site**

We support this proposal. It would be ideal if the extension coincided with the implementation of charging for parking on Aberystwyth Promenade because we are concerned that the new parking charges will result in congestion in other parts of Aberystwyth as people look for alternative parking spaces. Shortage of parking spaces inevitably results in abuse of disabled parking spaces. Greater enforcement against abuse of disabled parking spaces would be very helpful.

### **3. To change the designation of Gloster Row / Red Lion Car Park, Cardigan**

### **4. To change the designation of Pendre Car Park, Cardigan**

We are unable to comment on these two proposals because we have not received any feedback from disabled people who know Cardigan town well enough.

### **5. Simplification of charges / tariffs across the County**

We support this proposal.

## **7. To change the approach to Blue Badge Holder charging**

We are delighted with this proposal. We are grateful to the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee for recommending this, and to Cabinet for accepting the recommendation. Thank you.

## **8. Introduction of terms and condition related to Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.**

We support this proposal.

### Response provided to Ceredigion Disability Forum at the time in relation to queries raised:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of Ceredigion Disability Forum.

As outlined in the consultation document, only comments related to the proposals put forward will be reviewed and considered as part of this process.

I can confirm that comments which are relevant to the proposals have been noted as part of the consultation process.

In reviewing your response, we note that you have asked some questions / have some queries in relation to the actual proposals and would like to advise you as follows:

#### **1. Changes to Season Ticket offering**

I can confirm that the proposed number of season tickets is reflective of the current season ticket uptake at the car park and, as noted in the consultation document, is to strike a balance between the use by season ticket holders and other members of the public, including Blue Badge holders, wishing to access the health care facilities offered at North Road Clinic.

Vehicles displaying a valid Blue Badge would be exempt from charges and therefore season tickets would not be relevant so long as a Valid Blue Badge is on display.

More generally, season tickets do not guarantee a space is available and all Pay and Display Car Parks operate on a first come first served basis.

#### **2. To extend Maesyrafon Car Park in Aberystwyth into the former Arriva Site**

Subject to no unforeseen circumstances, it would be the intention of the Council to implement the proposal to extend Maesyrafon Car Park in line with any on-street charging proposals if they were implemented as a result of the consultation related to Aberystwyth Promenade.

I trust the above provides clarification in relation to these two areas of proposals where clarification was sought.

### **Llanwenog Community Council**

The community council's comment is that the authority should think about giving the first hour of free parking in every town and then asking about a charge from the second hour onwards.