



IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
Mrs Lesley Hughes

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Ms Cathy Aubertin
Operational Manager (Environment Services)
Commercial Services
South Hams District Council,
Follaton House,
Plymouth Road,
Totnes
TQ9 5NE

24th September 2015

Dear Cathy

Following our meeting on 7th September and the subsequent consideration by Ivybridge Town Council of the proposals to amend car parking charges in the town centre I am writing to confirm the outcome of our meeting on 14th September. I attach a copy of the report circulated beforehand and the text below is a draft of our minutes and resolution.

You will note that Cllr Mike Saltern was permitted to speak through the suspension of Standing Orders so that Town Councillors could be given the up to date information and confirmation of the offer from South Hams District Council.

“TOWN CENTRE PARKING: Following the resolution at Council on 22 July, Members explored options for car parking in the town. It was noted that a meeting has been held with South Hams District Council and a proposal for revised car parking charges has been offered (background information previously circulated).

Cllr Saltern reported to Members that concerns regarding car parking charges in the town on the town's economy had been made clear, however SHDC had emphasised that although they would not be able to lose income, it would be possible to consider different approaches to economic issues.

Cllr Saltern advised that following his approach to SHDC, and the letter from the Town Council, a meeting had taken place on the 17 August where proposals had been suggested, supported by both the Town Mayor and Town Clerk.

The suggestions are to dispense with the half hour charge in Glanvilles Mill car park as it is considered that it does not encourage a sufficient time to shop. To counter this loss, a decrease in the hour charge to

fifty pence is proposed alongside a much reduced all day fee of £2.00 per day in the Leonards Road car park. However it was subsequently advised that SHDC would expect a £10,000 per annum loss of income.

Cllr Saltern stated that there is £10,000 remaining of the Tesco 106 money and SHDC felt that this final sum from the Tesco expansion would be sensible use to underwrite any potential loss of income that SHDC could expect from reducing the car parking charges in the town.

The reduction in charges would be a pilot project and monitored regularly. If the reduction in charges proves successful, SHDC would explore funding with the Town Council for a future year.

Cllr Saltern advised that this information was taken to the Chamber of Commerce who are in full agreement with the recommendations, and the owners of Glanvilles Mill felt it was a positive move. It was noted that the lower Glanvilles Mill car park would be limited to one hour's parking.

The recommendations will go the Executive at SHDC for approval, however, Cllr Saltern advised that it is an example of SHDC, the Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce working together.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the trial parking arrangements and provide a letter to SHDC with this information"

I gather that you will be making a report to the Executive due to be held on 15th October and we did discuss whether it might help if I raised a question for that meeting about the importance of support for Ivybridge town centre in the light of the impact of the closure of two banks and pressures from other external factors and whether the District might be able to support car parking initiatives, including a simplification of the parking regime to a 50p and £2 all day rate, as a way of encouraging people to stay in the town and use the range of facilities that are still on offer (or something to that effect).

I am copying this letter to District Cllr Saltern and confirm that Ivybridge Town Council welcomes the proposed pilot scheme and looks forward to its introduction in time for the Christmas period.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Lesley Hughes
Town Clerk