

## **CAR PARKING – SEASCALE AND ST BEES STATION**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Cllr Allan Holliday

**LEAD OFFICER:** Keith Parker

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Keith Parker

**Summary:** This report presents the outcome of recent negotiations with representatives of Seascale and St Bees Parish Councils in relation to the car parks at Seascale foreshore and St Bees Station.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	That: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) St Bees Parish Council's offer of £2,000 for a twelve month period be accepted and the St Bees Station car park charges be removed for the same period, and</li><li>b) Seascale Parish Council's Offer of £3,000 for a twelve month period be accepted and the Seascale Foreshore car park charges be removed for the same period,</li><li>c) Millom Town Council's request to make Lancashire Road Car Park free is declined and,</li><li>d) If a) and b) above are accepted future agreement on an annual basis is delegated to the Head of Leisure and Environmental Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and subject to the parish contributions being adjusted for inflation.</li></ul>
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**Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan:** There are no direct impacts from this report although consultation with the Community, as represented by the Parish Councils in this case, is a basic foundation of the Council's activity.

**Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21):** Provision of free car parking in St Bees Village may improve traffic management in the village and hence improve the local environment, less significant impacts are anticipated in Seascale albeit there may be some traffic management improvements in the foreshore area.

**Financial and human resource implications:** If the St Bees offer is accepted a potential income loss of £1,685 is anticipated. If the Seascale offer is accepted a potential loss of income of £1,951 is anticipated.

**Project & Risk Management:** Nil

**Key Decision Status**

**- Financial:** None

**- Ward:** None

**Other Ward Implications:** This report has an impact on both Seascale and St Bees Wards

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Following the successful negotiations concluded with St Bee's last year to enable the provision of free car parking in the station car park both Seascale and St Bees Parishes have recently expressed a desire to enter into a partnership with this Council with the aim of introducing or continuing free parking in the 2006/07 financial year.
- 1.2 Last year I reported that St Bees Parish had made an offer to this Council in relation to the village car park having recognised Copeland has a right to derive an income from such facilities. At that time they did not feel this Council was unreasonable in asking for free parking to be locally subsidised. They were concerned about entering into any long term arrangement and made a short term offer which they wished to review after its twelve month duration. It would appear the arrangement is considered to be successful and they have again offered the sum of £2,000 if charging is removed for the 2006/07 financial year. As before this Council would retain responsibility for existing insurance, rates, rent and maintenance costs as was originally intended. As reported at the last Executive Members have gone some way to recognising the economic pressures on village communities by not increasing car parking charges outside of Whitehaven. Once again the Parish Council have sought to positively respond to opportunity to find a local solution. In this context it is recommended the offer is accepted and subject to review with the Parish Council at the end of its initial period.
- 1.3 Seascale Parish Council wish to be given a similar opportunity as St Bees under similar terms. They have offered £3,000 to subsidise free parking on the foreshore car park. This is £1,951 less than the predicted income for the current financial year but is comparable to the St Bees situation.
- 1.4 More recently Millom Town Council has written asking for charges to be removed from the Lancashire Road Car Park. Unlike St Bees and Seascale Parishes there is no offer to enter into a partnership with this Council in return. If Executive wish to agree to the request the cost to this Council would be approximately £1,800 in lost income.
- 1.4 In conclusion it is recommended that the both the St Bees and Seascale offers be accepted and in future should the Parishes wish to continue the arrangements that these are delegated to the Portfolio Holder and Head of Leisure and Environmental Services subject to the agreed subsidy being increased by inflation on an annual basis.

## **List of Appendices**

None

## **List of Background Documents:**

**List of Consultees:** Corporate Team      Cllr Holliday; Steven Tickner; Steve Bishop;