

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment and Highways Cabinet Board

14th April 2016

Joint Report of the Head of Streetcare -

M. Roberts and Head of Engineering and Transport – D.W.Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Parking Enforcement at Gnoll Country Park

Purpose of Report

- 1 To consider extending the Council's off-street parking order to cover the Gnoll Country Park car park.

Executive Summary

- 2 A survey within the Gnoll country park has identified that circa 25% of car drivers are not purchasing a ticket. Staff within the Gnoll have tried to encourage all users to pay, but with limited success, and staff have indicated that the problem seems to be increasing. Consequently, the Council's off-street parking order needs to be extended to cover the Gnoll Country Park so the charges can be enforced effectively.

Background

- 3 Members will recall that as part of the Forward Financial Plan, from the 1st April 2015 there was an increase in the charge within the Gnoll Country Park from £1 to £2 all day. Furthermore the annual pass was increased from £31 to £40 and the parking attendants were redeployed with two Pay & Display machines installed within the Gnoll car park.
- 4 Despite the efforts of the Gnoll staff to encourage visitors to pay, users are becoming increasingly aware that there is presently no effective enforcement in place and an increasing number are choosing not to pay.

- 5 Surveys within the car park have identified that circa 25% of car users are currently not purchasing a ticket.

Income for May 14 – October 14 was £28,627

Income for May 15 – October 15 was £44,316

- 6 For the Authority to meet its commitments within the FFP and to continue to improve the sustainability of the park, consideration needs to be given to including the Gnoll Country Park Car Park into the off-street parking order to facilitate effective enforcement.
- 7 Once incorporated into the Council's off-street parking order, enforcement can be undertaken on an ad-hoc basis by the Council's parking enforcement officers.
- 8 Charges have been in effect at the Gnoll for several years now and any displacement from the car park to the access road/local streets has generally already occurred. This has not been particularly problematic and at present no control measures outside of the park are proposed. If visitor parking on the access road becomes problematic then an order for double yellow lines can be progressed, funded by the operational budget for the Gnoll.
- 9 Free parking is currently not permitted for any event in the park and this would continue, with the off-street parking order applying 7 days a week.
- 10 All other day to day management of the car park will remain the responsibility of the parks section.

Financial Impact

- 11 An amendment to the off-street parking order requires the proposal to be placed in a local Newspaper; the cost of circa £1500 will be met by the operational budget for the Gnoll.
- 13 Additional/revised signs would be needed within the Country Park, at a cost of circa £2,500, which will also be met by the operational budget for the Gnoll.
- 14 Whilst site income will be retained within the park budget, the monies from any parking fines will be retained by parking services to assist with the cost of ad-hoc visits and any appeals.

- 15 Maintenance of the car park will continue to be met from within the Gnoll Park operational budget, and charges will continue to be set separately from other off-street provision across the County Borough.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 16 A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment

Workforce Impact

- 17 Ad-hoc enforcement visits, although limited, will be a demand on the Council's Parking Services.

Legal Impact

- 18 A legal order is required to effect the proposed change.

Risk Management

- 19 If the Gnoll Country Park does not continue to move towards a cost neutral position then the sustainability of the park going forward will continue to be called into question in the current climate of austerity.

Consultation

- 20 A legal order to effect an amendment to the off-street parking order will be subject to public advertisement and should any objections be received they will be presented for Member consideration before the order is made.

Recommendation(s)

- 21 It is recommended that effective enforcement of charges at the Gnoll Country Park is facilitated by amending the Council's off-

street parking order and undertaking the associated actions as detailed in the report.

Reason for Proposed Decision(s)

- 22 To protect an important income stream which supports the running of the park.

Implementation of Decision

- 23 The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

- 24 Plan of area to be incorporated into the off-street parking order.

List of Background Papers

- 25 Equalities Impact Screening Assessment

Officer Contact

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