Proposed Changes to Parking Arrangements – Quay Street and Quay West, Minehead

Background

Last year we conducted a countywide consultation on proposals to increase permit prices and change parking arrangements. Minehead residents responded to the consultation and highlighted that the current parking scheme in the town was not fit for purpose because residents were not prioritised and there were safety issues where no parking controls currently exist.

The countywide consultation led to the costs of permits being increased elsewhere in the county. It was agreed that no increase would take place in Minehead until a review of parking in Quay Street and Quay West was undertaken.

A review has now been concluded and this letter provides initial details of the proposed changes to parking arrangements, how you can have your say and the next steps.

Key Changes

The changes proposed to parking arrangements in Minehead aim to give local residents a parking scheme that is fit for purpose.

The proposals will give residents priority parking areas, remove the competition between tourists and residents for parking spaces, make visitor parking more cost effective, give holiday guests more flexibility and improve safety in areas where no parking controls currently exist.

The key changes are:
- Creation of permit parking only areas.
- Change of existing pay and display areas to ‘shared use’ (residents with a permit may park all day)
- Removal of current areas of unrestricted free parking
- Re-alignment of bays to create parallel parking outside The Ship Aground.
- Introduction of small lengths of double yellow lines to improve safety (with minimal loss of parking)
- Creation of permit area adjacent to the lifeboat house (for lifeboat crew)
- Introduction of daily scratch cards for visitors
- Introduction of weekly scratch cards for holidaymakers resident at registered premises within Quay Street and Quay West

There is a summary of the proposed changes and a map of the area showing the changes enclosed with this letter.

The proposal also aims to bring permit parking charges in line with the rest of the county. The current cost of a residents permit in Minehead is £8 which is much lower than in other areas and does not cover the cost of administration and enforcement of the parking scheme. The proposed permit charges reflect the actual cost of the permit. To help residents manage the increase in cost we propose that the charges are gradually increased over the next three years.

There is a document detailing the changes to the permit charges enclosed.

Also enclosed is a ‘Living with controlled parking in Somerset’ document that gives guidance on how we assess a problem and all the parking solutions we consider before we to draw up a proposal for an area.

**Meeting**

To provide an opportunity for residents to discuss the proposals it is proposed to hold a ‘drop in session’:

**When:** Monday 18th January 2016  
**Time:** 3pm to 7pm  
**Where:** The Old Ship Aground, Quay Street

**Feedback**

We welcome your feedback on these proposals. It is important that the changes are appropriate for local residents and any issues are identified before the changes are implemented.

A feedback form is enclosed along with a prepaid envelope.

Feedback may also be given online at the following link.

http://www.somersetconsults.org.uk/consult.ti/Resident_Parking_Minehead

All the feedback will be considered.

Please provide your feedback by **MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2016**

Due to the number of enquiries that maybe received we will be unable to respond to individual comments.
If you have any questions about the proposals please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions document or contact 01823 355137 or email parking@somerset.gov.uk.

**Next Steps**

We will send you an update when the feedback period has closed and all the responses have been considered.

The next step is likely to be a Traffic Regulation Order that requires the details of the proposals to be made public and consulted on fully. Depending on the level of feedback to the proposal we hope to have the new parking scheme in place at the start of 2016 Summer season.

We will keep you informed on the proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Deakin  
Parking Services Manager

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County Councillor Terry Venner  
County Councillor David Fothergill  
West Somerset District Council  
Minehead Town Council