

Supplementary Information

Agenda No Item

6 **Beach Huts Review (Pages 1 - 2)**

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Beach Huts Review – Additional Comments Received since the Agenda was Published

A Comment

“The block has forty huts. Some are owned by families who live in the Borough, some by families from outside the borough and some are rented from the Council. I have over the summer, had conversations with 26 of the 40 families (a good sample) and name consider the charges and fees introduced in April to be fair and justifiable.

- a. Owners from within the Borough consider £600 plus parking to be excessive.
- b. Owners from outside the Borough feel victimised. The increase in April of £150 to £1200 plus parking is at best outrageous. People from outside the borough do not pay double for parking, nor for a round of pitch and putt or for an ice cream at the kiosk
- c. Renters are resigned to the charges. However, they are content that if the roof leaks or the hut is destroyed in the storms, they are able to say thanks and hand back the keys”

Response

- (a) *The latest increase was part of a package of measures introduced to help the Council meet the predicted £1m deficit for this financial year (see page 151 of the Findings Pack)*

Car parking fees are not within the remit of this Panel’s review. Other Charges levied by the Council are being reviewed by the Budget Scrutiny Panel’s review of other charges and fees set by the Council.

- (b) *The plot hire fees for non residents has risen from £1050 to £1200 (14.3%). The difference between the licence fees levied for residents and non residents is addressed in Section C of the Findings Pack. Charging a higher fee for non residents is in line with fee structures adopted by other Councils*
- (c) *The provisions enabling renters to terminate their licence is set out in the licence terms and conditions*

B Alternative Proposal for 2018 - 2019

- a. "All privately owned beach hut owners to be charged £600 for the next three years then to be subject of a review. Owners from within the Borough to be allowed one free parking permit. Owners from outside the Borough to pay for parking.
- b. The council owned huts are essentially a business which, hopefully makes a fair profit after the usual outgoings
- c. The transfer charge to remain at £100. A fair charge for a data entry"

Response

- a. *This proposal in terms of the Licence fees would, based on current fees, represents a loss to the Council of £61,200:*

Financial Implications of this Proposal					
Type of Licence	Number	Licence Fee	Annual Income	Licence Fee	Annual Income
Private Resident	219	£600.00	£131,400.00	£600.00	£131,400.00
Private Non Resident	102	£1,200.00	£122,400.00	£600.00	£61,200.00
Total Annual Income			£253,800.00		£192,600.00
Difference in Income					-£61,200.00

Car parking fees are not within the remit of this Panel's review or within the control of Environmental Services budget. Charges levied by other services are being reviewed by the Budget Scrutiny Panel..

- b. *The Council aims to balance its finances each year and direct resources to deliver quality services in a targeted way.*
- C. *The justification and rationale for the Transfer of Licence fee is set out on page 159 of the Findings Pack.*