

Briefing Note: Winter Parking Charges on Hayling Island

In accordance with Havant Borough Council's petition scheme the Scrutiny Board is considering the following petition with the relevant officer giving evidence at this public meeting.

A petition was created by borough residents and the public to try and lower the cost of parking on Hayling Island in the Winter months. Cllr Narinder Bains, the Cabinet Lead, and the Head of Neighbourhood Quality have asked the Board be minded to scrutinise this petition. It received 1,221 signatures, and a summary of the points raised can be found in the table below.

Mike Owens wrote to Natalie Meagher and Hayling Councillors to raise the issue and linked the petition:

https://www.change.org/p/havant-council-stop-winter-car-parking-charges-on-hayling-sea-front-21dfd3c3-810d-4c2c-b7d4-a2fe2cf7c5e6/c?source_location=petition_show.

Points raised

Area affected	Point made
Hayling Residents	<p>Only 'locals' visit in the Winter months for dog walks, etc.</p> <p>Less litter discarded by tourists in Winter means local residents more inclined to visit.</p> <p>Walks along the beach and trips to the bottom of Hayling can improve mental health and overall happiness which is discouraged by the high parking charges.</p> <p>The atmosphere of the seafront would be improved, giving the place a "more vibrant feel".</p> <p>Local families who must manage disabilities benefit from being able to park so close to the beach for medical reasons, allowing their families to enjoy the beach, but feel the charge is unjust.</p> <p>Would encourage more people to exercise by having access to the beach.</p> <p>When the weather is already colder there needs another incentive to go out and enjoy the beach, hopefully in the form of free parking.</p> <p>The general population of Hayling is in their "autumn years" and so depend on a car to travel even short distances to the beach, so feel the charge is unjustified.</p>
Hayling Businesses	<p>Loss of business brought to the area caused by high parking charges.</p> <p>Local economy needs the tourist pond brought by lower/dropping Winter parking charges.</p> <p>Local seafront businesses and hospitality trades are not helped by higher parking charges.</p>

Tourism	<p>More people outside of the Borough would be encouraged to visit Hayling in the Winter if charges were lowered/dropped.</p> <p>Southsea has free beachside parking and have higher Winter visitor numbers increasing tourism.</p> <p>Other beaches have lost visitors as a result of parking charges such as West Wittering.</p>
Council Income	<p>Believe that policing the car parks in Winter could not be worth the income gained by the council.</p> <p>A possible increase in council tax incurred by enforcement and maintenance.</p> <p>Common belief that the Summer months generate enough income to justify removing the Winter parking charges.</p> <p>A belief that the parking charges on Hayling are the highest in the borough.</p> <p>Other local authorities have lower parking charges.</p> <p>“The revenue does not match the lack of local amenity”</p> <p>Multiple comments stated the toilets on the seafront were consistently closed, so where does the money go?</p>