

Petition: Keep 1 hour free parking in Paddock Wood

For Full Council on 05 October 2022

Summary

Lead member: Cllr Justine Rutland – Cabinet Member for Tunbridge Wells and surrounding areas (which includes responsibility for Parking)

Lead Director: Lee Colyer – Director of Finance, Policy and Development

Head of Service: Jane Clarke – Head of Policy and Governance

Report Author: Mark O’Callaghan – Scrutiny and Engagement Officer

Classification: Public document (non-exempt)

Wards Affected: Paddock Wood East, Paddock Wood West

Approval Timetable	Date
Full Council	05 October 2022

Recommendations

1. That the petition be considered and resolved accordingly, which may include one of the options set out in section 2 of the report.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 A petition has been received in accordance with the Council's published Petition Scheme. The petition was signed by more than 1,000 which qualifies for a Full Council debate.
- 1.2 This report sets out the terms of the petition and the procedure for dealing with petitions at Full Council.
- 1.3 The petition was conducted via paper forms collected in and around Paddock Wood by various supporters of the petition.

Petition Statement

- 1.4 The petition states:

"Keep 1 hour free parking in Paddock Wood.

Please sign this petition as a matter of urgency. The proposal to lose the first free hour parking in Paddock Wood will be decided at the Cabinet meeting on the 20th July 2022.

TWBC are looking to take away Paddock Wood's first hour free parking, with no public consultation. This is a life line for our local businesses who will be the ones that lose foot fall through their doors and who are still recovering from covid restrictions. These shops went out of their way to look after the residents of the town and the surrounding areas in very difficult circumstances, we need to support them.

This will also create even more illegal pavement parking on commercial road if we were to lose the first hour free. This will also add to an environmental problem with engines left running while people pop into the shops.

Please sign this petition and show your support for Paddock Wood businesses."

- 1.5 The petition was signed by 1,167 people. The names, addresses and signatures of those who signed the petition (the subscribers) were validly received and are deposited with Democratic Services but have been omitted from this report to protect the subscriber's personal data.

Cabinet Decision Making

- 1.6 The Cabinet met on 20 July 2022 and decided to delay a decision on parking charges pending a four-week consultation, extended to six-weeks, which ran from 25 July to 5 September 2022.
- 1.7 That decision was Called-In by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which considered the matter at its meeting on 27 July 2022 and decided to take no further action.
- 1.8 The results of the consultation were reported to Cabinet on 22 September 2022 where the Cabinet resolved as follows:
1. Increase the prices for parking as stated in the Sales Prices, Fees and Charges Cabinet report 20 July 2022 (excluding Dunorlan Park) as soon as the necessary steps to implement the changes have taken place, with the exception of:
 - i. The free period for Yew Tree Road, Southborough and/or
 - ii. The free period for Paddock Woodwhich will be maintained while other options for funding, including those suggested in the consultation, are explored. The Council will engage with Southborough Town Council and/or Paddock Wood Town Council to discuss funding the revenue foregone by retaining the current free parking periods, be approved.
 2. Cabinet agree for officers to commence an informal public consultation, seeking views on options to improve the amenity value of Dunorlan Park, including the introduction of parking charges, be approved.

Meeting procedure

- 1.9 The petition organiser(s) will have up to 10 minutes to address the Council and set out any information relevant to the petition. The time may be divided amongst several persons at the petition organiser's discretion.
- 1.10 Members of the Council may ask questions of the petitioners to clarify any points made.
- 1.11 Members of the public who have duly registered may speak to the petition (normal public speaker rules apply). A maximum of four people may speak for up to three minutes each. Places are usually allocated on a first come first served basis except that if there are several speakers from the same group they will be asked to nominate one speaker to represent their collective view.
- 1.12 A representative of any Town or Parish Council within the Borough, having duly registered, may give the official view of their Town or Parish. Each representative may speak for up to three minutes. (This time is in addition to the time allowed for public speaking.)

- 1.13 Following the speakers, the relevant cabinet member will speak first in the debate and propose a motion, the proceedings will then follow the usual rules of debate.

2. Options

- 2.1 The Cabinet member will propose a motion to be debated. Members are asked to consider all the issues in determining their response to the motion. The resolution may take various forms but will fall into one of the following broad categories:
- 2.2 **No further action** – Members may disagree with the premise of the petition or decide that the issues have been sufficiently resolved and resolve to take no further action.
- 2.3 **Make a recommendation to Cabinet** – It is an executive function and therefore within the Cabinet's remit to decide whether to implement parking charges in the Borough but Council may make a recommendation either in support or against the proposals.

3. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices:

- None

Exempt appendices (if any):

- None

Background Papers:

- Cabinet papers of 20 July 2022:
<https://democracy.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MId=5183&Ver=4>
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee papers of 27 July 2022:
<https://democracy.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=359&MId=5256&Ver=4>
- Cabinet papers for 22 September 2022:
<https://democracy.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MId=5184&Ver=4>

4. Cross Cutting Issues

A. Legal (including the Human Rights Act)

The Council's published Petition Scheme and the Constitution (Council Procedure Rule 9) set out how a petition will be dealt with. This report is in accordance with the scheme.

Claudette Valmond, Head of Legal Partnership, 27 September 2022.

B. Other Implications

This report is for information only. There are no decisions directly from this report which would have cross-cutting implications. Any recommendations to take actions which may be formed from the discussion would be subject to separate decision-making procedures whereby the implications can be fully considered.

Mark O'Callaghan, Scrutiny and Engagement Officer, 27 September 2022.