

Local Residents, Businesses and Organisations Freeform Responses

No.	Comments
	RESIDENTS
1	<p>I live in hall's hollen rd and have walked my dog there every day since 1998..</p> <p>I have to drive all of 300 yrs to the park as you have Not provided access to the verge.</p> <p>The idea of charging is preposterous!!!!</p> <p>I pay council tax for use of the park.</p>
2	<p>I am emailing in response to a letter I received this morning. I am strongly against the proposal to charge for parking in Dunorlan park.</p> <p>Drivers would then park on Halls Hole Road as they do when the car park is full, which then creates huge problems as this road is not wide enough to cope. Drivers would also look for free parking in the surrounding streets, including mine, causing more disruption.</p>
3	<p>I am writing in relation to the recent proposal by TWBC to begin charging to park at Dunorlan Park car parks.</p> <p>I live at number xxxx and the parking is already a nightmare where I am. There is a lay-by that the residents use and any guests that visit residents on the Road. This proposal will increase the traffic that already has a detrimental effect of the residents due to the noise and congestion.</p> <p>The lay-by will now be full of people that come to park there for the park and will be packed with people looking for somewhere free to park. This will be a nightmare for the local residents and we will be unable to park.</p> <p>Please can you take this into consideration that the standard of living for the residents of Halls Hole Road will be affected by this decision.</p> <p>Has there been any consideration about this and the knock on effect? How will the residents of TWBC who pay the council tax be compensated for this?</p> <p>Let me know if there is anything further I can do to oppose this as I would be willing to do everything I can to prevent this action.</p>
4	<p>Hi and thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>My comment is simply this: don't forget the law of unintended consequences. As parking is charged elsewhere in the town, people will inevitably use the Dunorlan car park if it is free parking and then walk into town (I'm sure people already do this).</p> <p>This means that people wanting to drive to the park to use the park, may not be able to.</p>
5	<p>I support the introduction of car park charging, bearing in mind the financial situation regarding rising costs of maintenance within Dunorlan Park.</p> <p>I would however base my support on the condition that funds raised by the introduction of the charges are used directly and ring fenced to the benefit of Dunorlan Park and the care of this beautiful place.</p>
6	<p>Maybe you could install a donation box for the parking charges.</p>
7	<p>We are so concerned that the subject of parking charges for Dunorlan Park has come up again. What a huge shame.</p>

	<p>The park is an absolute life-line within our very busy town and by introducing parking charges it could well discourage people from visiting it. The streets surrounding the park are already at saturation point for parking and by charging for parking in the park it can only exacerbate an already impossible situation. As somebody who lives very near by I am very concerned about this.</p> <p>The impact of parking charges on families trying to spend all day picnicking in the park, and on things like the park run will be huge.</p> <p>Surely, people should be encouraged rather than discouraged to use the park – for mental and physical health. During this recessionary time one of the only 'free' things that families can do is to enjoy themselves in the parks.</p> <p>Parking machines would be an open invitation to vandalism – and the cost of installing and maintaining the machines would be large.</p> <p>The café in the park is a well-used and valued asset and its sustainability would be put into question by parking charges.</p> <p>PLEASE reconsider this matter. Your proposal is such an anti-social one and is potential very harmful.</p>
8	<p>Charges will drive even more vehicles to park up in the only remaining free areas in Hawkenbury, i.e. High Woods Lane & Halls Hole Road. This will increase the already huge inconvenience for residents, their visitors, workmen and allotment holders. Since the imposition of restrictions by TWBC in the whole Hawkenbury area, following the huge influx of mainly AXA staff and their resultant parking years ago, the situation for these two remaining free areas has become untenable. Perhaps an expansion of the arguably inadequate parking in the park should be considered.</p>
9	<p>Thank you for providing a Dunorlan Park survey which has allowed me to confirm the importance the park offers to both myself and the community.</p> <p>Whilst understanding that the following is based on general 'gossip', I'm particularly shocked to note that the proposed parking request for visitors is based on the assumption that 'if you live in Tunbridge Wells then you can afford to pay a parking fee'. I do not expect to pay for visiting the park indeed there should be more free parking spaces for the community ideally all on smooth surfaces.</p> <p>The 'Dunorlan Park Friends' group largely provide a free volunteer labour service Monday mornings. The Kent High Weald Partnership carries out remediation work in parks across Kent. However, KHWP charge a daily rate for their services and the Friends pay them on occasions when needed for their special skills such as chainsawing and reinforcing island banks thus saving the Council these costs.</p> <p>Finally, there is limited, safe parking in surrounding areas. Adding to that parking scarcity could be hazardous.</p> <p>I trust that TWB Council will think very carefully before deciding what is best for the community.</p>
10	<p>I understand the fiscal constraints.</p> <p>The proposed solution is likely to cause more problems though and probably in the end be very expensive and potentially life threatening one.</p> <p>There is already a significant problem with overflow parking on Halls Hole Road. This has caused arguments and accidents in the past and no doubt will continue to do so. If the council imposes parking charges this problem will only get worse.</p>

	<p>How much will it cost to enforce the parking charges. Camera installation or patrolling?</p> <p>How much will it cost in policing to deal with the additional accidents and any affray?</p> <p>Is it worth upsetting local residents and making their lives more difficult and dangerous?</p> <p>£182,000 a year might get an accountant excited but per resident it is relatively trivial. Maybe don't waste so much money on failed schemes like the mad idea to put a theatre and offices in Calverley grounds.</p> <p>So much money is wasted in TW on idiotic schemes. This is just another.</p> <p>Please think again, don't put more lives at risk. And please don't once again, impose another fiscal burden which adversely affects the poor far more than the rich.</p>
11	<p>i have completed survey but the last query is not really answerable. 6youths/ six young children?the park, like pavements, twittens,IS tunbridge wells and should be free free to enjoy.a voluntary collection from friends/residents and local businesses could be considered I SUPPOSE.</p>
12	<p>Dunorlan Park is one of the great assets available to visitors and residents of Tunbridge Wells, especially during the summer months when the weather is sufficiently reliable to be able to attract regular annual events such as Pub in the Park and the weekly Parkrun. The potential to attract more of such events sits with the Council, but to even consider making a charge to park in the Park's car park is iniquitous when one of the main responsibilities on the agenda of TWBC is to seek to attract visitors and shoppers to our wonderful town. This is such a negative move when the Park gives such pleasure to pensioners, disabled people, dog walkers, families, wild-life lovers, keep fit enthusiasts, many of whom will find it difficult to pay the extra cost for parking. Being asked to pay to park will (potentially) reduce visitor numbers considerably unless alternative parking on a narrow part of Halls Hole Road serves as an unpaid alternative, overlooking the negative traffic flow implications and the consequent reduction in the width and quality of the grass verges, and I speak with almost 40 years' experience of living on xxxx.</p>
BUSINESSES	
13	<p>thank you for your email i look forward to receiving the paper copies of the survey to display in the cafe. Car parking charges will most certainly have a negative effect on the businesses within the park who also contribute to the council coffers, it can be quite challenging to run this type of business as we have seen see with the closure of St Johns catering outlet and the mobile unit in Hawkenbury recreation Grounds. I wouldn't like to think that people with limited mobility where walking or biking isn't an option put off from visiting our park due to parking charges, best wishes</p>
ORGANISATIONS	
14	<p>This is interesting as we thought the idea of charging to park in the Dunorlan car parks had been dropped. However, we want to be constructive in this matter and will co-operate as much as possible.</p> <p>I think it is important to consider the complete picture of revenue that Dunorlan Park can generate for TWBC. We believe that more money could be charged to organisers of the events field such as Pub in the Park and the funfair. We would also wish to be assured that revenue generated by parking charges would be returned directly for use in the Park. At present, maintenance provided through Tivoli in the Park is underfunded and is unsatisfactory in many ways. The Park is currently partly maintained by a team of about</p>

	<p>15 volunteers provided through the Friends and managed by the excellent Kasia Olszewska of TWBC. If car parking charges are introduced, I would suggest that free passes should be given to the volunteers and, for example, to members of our committee who feed the wildfowl during the winter and rescue injured birds to take to the Folly Rescue Centre.</p> <p>You would also need to consider the effects of car parking charges on the Saturday parkrun community and on people who walk their dogs early and late in the day when the park is otherwise very quiet.</p> <p>If TWBC charges for the car parks, people will seek to park elsewhere. This could make worse the already dangerous conditions on Halls Hole Road and could lead to dangerous and unsightly parking on verges on Pembury Road.</p> <p>I am copying this initial reply to my colleagues on the Friends' Committee and, when I have their views, I will encourage our 400 members to comment.</p> <p>Incidentally, you say you are consulting residents who live close to the Park but these are the very people who do not need to take cars to the park! May be, our wider survey of 400 members will be more useful to you.</p> <p>I hope my initial thoughts are useful. I will submit a more detailed response when we have consulted our members.</p>
15	<p>I have noticed the idea to charge for visiting Dunorlan Park, with the reasons bring to find the money to pay the ever increasing costs of maintaining the park.</p> <p>I think it would be a shame to charge. The park is a lifeline to many, a big open space where you can exercise, meet in groups, walk the dog or just sit admiring the views and feed the ever growing wildfowl. It is a good place to relax and reduce anxiety.</p> <p>The park is not in the centre of town, and most people (unless local) need to use a car to get to the Park. At the present time we are trying to boost Tunbridge Wells and bring people to the area, and I feel these charges would be a deterrent, especially if they have already been in Town and paid for multi storey parking.</p> <p>The cafe has strong business especially from the 200 weekly parkrunners, but this would possibly reduce if charges are made as the runners and volunteers would go home rather than have to pay extra. I appreciate many are fit runners who walk to the park, but there are over 40 volunteers each week who give up their time to ensure the health and well-being of the community is met. They are also joined on monthly runs with 5k your Way for people recovering from cancer, and the Council are looking to include their healthy runs into the parkrun runs. Outdoor gym equipment has recently been installed (no cost to TWBC with monies raised by the public), and the parking charges could deter people.</p> <p>Friends of Dunorlan Park and parkrun raised the money for the drinking facility, Friends of Dunorlan Park and parkrun raised 2/3 of the money for the defibrillator.</p> <p>Concern overall would be for business for the cafe and boathouse. In the summer people like to come for the day, have a picnic, go on the boats, and I worry in the current climate this would deter people from coming.</p> <p>There are also a group of volunteers who work each Monday gardening in the park, and Kent High Weald who continually work on projects funded by Friends of Dunorlan Park. There are also members of the public who volunteer to litter pick, care for the wildfowl, update the noticeboards, and recycle cans. On top of that there are also volunteers from Barnardos and Oakley School. These people reduce the workload of Tivoli and all free to the council. What would the cost be to TWBC if they had to fund these?</p>

	<p>If you install car parking meters how much will this cost, and how long would you think it would take to recoup the money?</p> <p>The car park in Halls Hole Road would need to be resurfaced in parts. It is fine parking in a muddy hole if it's free but I would strongly object if I had to pay. People will just park in Halls Hole Road or side roads causing disruption.</p> <p>I think you need to rethink how to raise money, but change it into how can we save and raise money with what is currently there.</p> <p>Pub in the Park is the biggest event in the Park. The cost TWBC charge for the 10 days they disrupt the park (especially for dog walkers as this is the only place they can be off the lead) is so cheap at £750 per day. Pub in the Park are already promoting the event next July so I hope we have considerably increased the cost.</p> <p>We could also have paid parking down the side of the field by the gate at Halls Hole car park for this event. If you charged £20 a session each (afternoon and evening and Sunday for 100 cars this would raise £6000.</p> <p>The same would apply to the fun fair but parking could be in the events field like the Jubilee Event. I would only suggest we do it for large events.</p> <p>After Christmas you could have a weekend where everyone brings their trees to be recycled and left in the field by the Halls Hole car park gate. Then this can be recycled into bark to either be sold or used around the park.</p> <p>The plants I believe are still bought from the same nursery they have used for years. Are we getting the most competitive quote or can money be saved here?</p> <p>Dunorlan Park has a nice established community of people who appreciate and care for the park, and many will stop coming if there are charges.</p> <p>We won Gold and Green Flag awards this and previous years, due to the presentation of the Park, but comments were also made appreciating all the work the community do to maintain and use the Park.</p> <p>I therefore feel there should be no charge to park at the Park.</p>
16	<p>Thank you for the heads-up on the Dunorlan Park car parking charges consultation. I have completed the on-line consultation expressing my concern that this move could result in drivers parking on Halls Hole Road to avoid paying the parking fee.</p> <p>As you are no doubt aware, Halls Hole Road is a well used 'rat run' that has frequent and fast vehicles - cars, vans and bigger - using it. This already poses a danger for vehicles entering and particularly exiting the car park. The presence of parked cars in Halls Hole Road could further obscure the drivers' view. Other measures to stop on-road parking in that area may be needed to ensure the safe use of this entrance.</p> <p>I also suggest that the helpful plan to reduce the rat-running on Halls Hole Road and Cornford Lane devised by local residents in 2021 should be reconsidered in this context since it could significantly reduce traffic flows and speeds on these 'lanes'.</p> <p>I have attached a copy of this plan that I have on file for you to review and consider alongside your proposal to levy parking fees in Dunloran Park.</p>