

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: TUESDAY 18TH MAY 2010
title: POPE CROFT CAR PARK, RIBCHESTER – REPORT TO
SUSPEND PAY & DISPLAY
submitted by: JOHN C HEAP - DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: GRAHAM M JAGGER – STREET SCENE MANAGER

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To consider a request received from Ribchester Parish Council on behalf of the Ribchester Market Day Committee for the suspension of charging for parking on the Pope Croft car park in Ribchester on Monday 31ST May (Spring Bank Holiday) this year and each year thereafter to allow residents in the village to park for free all day whilst the market takes place on certain streets in the village.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's aims and ambitions: -

- Achieving our Corporate Strategic Objectives
 - Ribble Valley aims to be a well managed Council providing efficient services.
- Council Ambitions
 - None
- Council Objectives
 - None
- Council Priorities for 2010/11
 - None

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Pope Croft car park in Ribchester was included in the pay and display system of charging for parking in April 2001 at the same time as the car park in Slaidburn.

2.2 The Off- Street Parking Places Order 2001 made a provision that the Council could on such days throughout the year as it may determine agree to allow the car park to be used free of charge in connection with any events taking place on adjoining or neighbouring land. The purpose of this clause was to allow free parking when the Field Day was taking place in Ribchester and the Hodder Valley Show was taking place in Slaidburn. During the consultations with the Parish Councils that lead up to the introduction of parking charges on both sites it was agreed that until further notice this clause would be applied annually on dates relating to each of the events.

3. ISSUES

3.1 A request has been received through Ribchester Parish Council from Mrs Jackie Baker the Chairperson of the Ribchester Market Day Committee that the Council is

asked to consider waiving car parking fees on Pope Croft Car Park on Spring Bank Holiday Monday each year from 31st May 2010 onwards.

- 3.2 As the street market is held on Church Street and Water Street the residents are asked to move their cars from the street in order to allow the market to take place. To the best of my knowledge the streets in question have not in the past been subject to a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order allowing the streets to be closed to allow the event to take place. It appears that the Police have taken it upon themselves to block off the road preventing access to properties and on street parking whilst the event has taken place, making the area safe for visitors and traders.
- 3.3 Whilst a similar verbal request was made last year it was very close to the date of the event and therefore not in sufficient time to be given due consideration by members of this Committee. The request was therefore rejected.
- 3.4 Following the initial request correspondence has been exchanged with the Clerk to Ribchester Parish Council recommending that any affected residents park their cars on the free but small car park situated nearby on Greenbank in the village but the request has still come back from the Ribchester Market Committee for free parking on Pope Croft.
- 3.5 To allow free all day parking on Pope Croft car park on a Spring Bank Holiday is likely to reduce income from that car park by in the region of about £210.00 I estimate based on the figures available for previous years.
- 3.6 The car park has 68 spaces on it for cars, 2 allocated for disabled drivers and 2 for coaches. The public conveniences are situated immediately adjacent to the car park as is the very popular recreation ground.
- 3.7 The options available to Committee are as follows.

3.7.1 Option 1

Refuse the request on any one of or a combination of the following reasons: -

- Loss of income to the Council if parking is free on that day;
- That a precedent may be set for further requests of a similar nature;
- That suitable alternative free parking already exists nearby on another Council car park;
- That as the roads where the market is planned to take place are not to be formally closed to grant the request would be inappropriate.

3.7.2 Option 2

Agree to suspend charging for parking for all vehicles between the hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm on Monday 31st May 2010 (and each Spring Bank Holiday thereafter).

3.7.3 Option 3

Agree to provide up to 30 free parking permits for use by residents directly affected by the event which shall be distributed by Ribchester Parish Council on behalf of the Borough Council. The remainder of the car park not occupied by residents will

therefore remain available for use by visitors who will be required to pay for parking as normal.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 Approval of this report may have the following implications.

Resources

- The options have different financial implications ranging from none to in the region of £210.00.

Technical, Environmental & Legal

- The current Order allows for the suspension of charging for parking if Committee agrees it is necessary and proportionate to do so in relation to the planned event. It does need to be remembered however that the event organisers appear to have not got a formal road closure of the roads in question for the event.

Political

- None

Reputation

- Supporting a popular community based event by allowing free parking on the public car park would enhance the Council's reputation but as the affected roads where vehicles could not park are not to be subject to closure the Council could be seen as giving a concession to something that is not properly organised in this case.

5. RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Select one of the options set out at 3.7 in this report in response to the request from the Ribchester Market Day Committee.

JOHN C HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Background Papers

- The Off Street Parking Places Order 2001

For further information please contact Graham Jagger on 01200 414523.