

REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED AT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 11 OCTOBER, 2023

Item 8 Consideration of a 20mph speed limit in all or part of the Town

As has been reported at previous meetings, Westmorland and Furness Council (WFC) has adopted a new policy in relation to 20mph zones. It is unclear if there would be any financial implications for the Town Council, but the first step would be for the Council to formally advise the Locality Board that we wish to be considered.

The Clerk will report correspondence from Janet Atkins in support of a 20mph limit.

The Council are asked if they wish to pursue a 20mph limit in the Town, and if so if this is for all the Town or part of it.

Item 9 Proposed transfer of funds from the Save Ruskin's View account to the main Town Council account

At present the Town Council holds the main Town Council account and the account for Ruskin's View. The latter is essentially the fundraising account for the campaign run by The Friends of Ruskin's View and if charitable status is gained by The Friends, then this account will be transferred to the charity.

Over the last two years all the expenditure on Ruskin's View has come out of the main Town Council account and this includes: the engineering consultants Fairhurst; the Fundraising Consultant; the Fundraising Co-ordinator; and a number of other costs. This amounts to circa £70k. In addition the Council put £50k last year into the fundraising pot.

It has always been said that at some stage expenditure on Ruskin's View would need to start coming from the Ruskin's View account. The Ruskin's View account currently stands at £77k, although other pledges etc take the overall figure to around £143k.

Due largely to the expenditure on Ruskin's View the Town Council finds itself in a budget position that requires some additional funding, albeit on a short term basis.

The Finance and Monitoring Group met on 19 September and agreed to recommend to the Council that £20k be transferred from the Save Ruskin's View account to the main Town Council account, on the basis that this money is transferred back when the Council's financial position allows it, and no later than the start of the next financial year.

The Town Council are asked to consider this proposal.

Item 10 Save Ruskin's View

In relation to this item the following is a draft structure for the public meeting to be held on 20 October (7.00 in the Lunesdale Hall).

Save Ruskin's View/The Brow footpath: The proposed technical solution and update on fundraising

- Introductions, agenda and why we are here (Mike Burchnell)
- The technical solution, Fairhurst (Tony Simmons)
- Town Council technical input (Malcolm Perrin)
- The Friends of Ruskin's View/Charitable status update (M Burchnell)
- The importance of Ruskin's View and fundraising update (Matt Sowerby and Sam Millar)
- Q and A from the floor

The Council's views are requested on this draft agenda.

Item 12 The Booths No 1 car park

The Booths main car park (known as No 1) is located immediately adjacent to the store. This car park is owned by Booths and until 1 September the car park was managed by Westmorland and Furness Council (WFC) under a management agreement. From 1 September a company called Parking Eye were employed by Booths to manage the car park. There is therefore no direct involvement of either WFC or the Town Council in running this car park. The new arrangements have also been introduced in the Booths car park which is located along the access to the Health Centre

Up until the recent changes the first hours use of the car park was free if more than £5 was spent in Booths; parking charges were then on an hourly rate between 08.00 and 18.00 with no charges outside these hours. This meant that the car park was free to use when the store was closed.

The new regime uses licence plate number recognition cameras and the main features of the tariff are:

- Up to 1 hour free
- Up to 2 hours £2.50
- Maximum stay 2 hours, pay on exit
- Parking tariffs apply 24 hours a day 7 days a week.
- Charge for exceeding 2 hours £100
- Blue badge holders and electric vehicle charging, tariffs apply

The changes were introduced by Booths with no consultation with WFC or the Town Council and have resulted in many complaints from residents and visitors. Allan Muirhead on behalf of the Community Interest Company (CIC) has summarised the main concerns as follows:

- The new restrictions apply 24/7 so effectively no late evening parking or overnight parking is permitted, resulting in the loss of 100 spaces. This is the first time the town has had evening and overnight parking charges imposed.
- Only one machine has been provided to make payments and check timings which will lead to congestion, queuing etc
- There is no guidance as to whether, if you have been in less than an hour, you have to use the payment machine to verify this. How do parents who are picking up or dropping off children to use the Master Grange footpath use the car park
- Booths co-operated with accommodation providers via the permit scheme and allowed CIC shop volunteers to park without charge. These concessions are no longer available and Booths have ended a valued relationship between themselves and the community.
- No advance warning was given or consultation, although WFC will have known that a change was to take place.

There has been concern expressed via the Kirkby Lonsdale Facebook page, the Clerk has received a letter from a resident of Arkholme that has been sent to all councillors and Councillor Hazel Hodgson has expressed her concern at the loss of 24 hour parking and has asked for a supporting letter from Tim Farron MP.

It is suggested that the Town Council, together with the CIC and Councillor Hodgson request an urgent meeting with senior management at Booths to discuss the concerns that are outlined in this report and those that have been expressed via the local community.