

ITEM 9

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 26 SEPTEMBER 2006

EXTENSION OF PAY AND DISPLAY IN CAR PARKS

Report of the Head of Business Management

Purpose of Report:

To consider the extension of pay and display to the Authority's car parks at Bossington, Horner, Tarr Steps and Exford

Legal Implications including Human Rights Act 1998:

Environment Act 1995, section s.65(4) provides that the powers of a National Park Authority include power to do "*anything which in the opinion of that authority, is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to –*

(a) the accomplishment of the purposes mentioned in s.65 (1) (national park purposes) or

(b) the carrying out of any functions conferred on it by virtue of any other enactment."

Disabled badge holders would park free.

Financial Implications:

Medium Term Financial Plan envisages the Authority generating income from car parks. Set up costs would be met from charges for the first year.

Business Plan Objective:

B/14.01 Authority Car Parks – includes seeking income to cover management costs and the costs of associated facilities.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee

- APPROVES the introduction of Pay and Display at Bossington, Horner, Tarr Steps and Exford Car Parks as set out in this report.
- AUTHORISES the National Park Officer to conclude discussions and negotiations with West Somerset District Council on the arrangements.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The assumptions on which the Medium Term Financial Plan 2006/07 to 2008/09 was constructed included increasing self generated crime through Pay and Display in car parks. Pay and Display has been introduced during 2006/07 at the Valley of Rocks Picnic Site in conjunction with Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council and North Devon District Council.

1.2 Members will recall that the Authority's approach towards providing visitors facilities has a number of strands:

- improving the quality of toilet facilities including compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act

- rationalising services to reduce the call on capital to carry out improvement works with the objective of reducing the ongoing running costs
- exploring possible income streams to effect running costs as an alternative to closure of facilities eg. Pay and Display

2. EXTENSION OF PAY AND DISPLAY

2.1 Discussions have been held with West Somerset District Council over the arrangements necessary to extend Pay and Display to the Authority's car parks at Bossington, Horner, Tarr Steps and Exford and have welcomed the opportunity to work in partnership.

2.2 West Somerset District Council would make the arrangements for the necessary Traffic Order to be prepared so that charges can be introduced with effect from 1 March 2007. The matters considered include the Authority:

- West Somerset District Council with the Council managing the fixed penalty system and returning the income.
- Bearing all the costs for making the Order and the purchase of the necessary machines and the associated monitoring equipment.
- Managing the car parks at Tarr Steps and Exford including the collection of income. West Somerset District Council will provide training for the Authority's staff.
- Contracting with West Somerset District Council for them to manage the car parks at Bossington and Horner as part of their current operations at a fee to be negotiated.
- Fixing charges for these car parks and the following is suggested:

charges to operate from 10am to 6pm each day
charges - £1.50 for 4 hours
£2.50 all day
Disabled badge holders free

2.3 During discussions it became clear that this partnership arrangement would provide further opportunity for joint working as follows:

- The possibility of season tickets being applicable to all the car parks operated by the Council and the Authority
- The potential to make available a weekly ticket for use at all car parks which would be sold from our National Park Centres at Dunster and Dulverton

Charles Burrows
Head of Business Management
15 September 2006