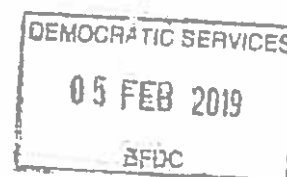


PLEASANCE CAR PARK - PROPOSED PAYMENT CHARGES

FAO Derek McNab
Chief Executive Officer Epping Forest District Council
CIVIC OFFICES
High Street
Epping CM16 4BZ



RE: Off Street Order 2019 -A

The Under-signed wish to register our dissent and disappointment RE: the proposed charge for Sunday Parking at the Pleasance Car Park, Ongar CM5 9AB to be introduced 2019.
For the following reasons :

1. The Ongar Twinning Petanque Club established in 2009 having their playing area in the Cerizay Garden to the rear of this car park, currently has over 25 regular playing members. The majority are senior citizens from Ongar and the surrounding areas, including, Epping, Greensted, North Weald, Toot Hill, Stanford Rivers, Shelley, The Rodings and beyond. They play every SUNDAY throughout the year between 10.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. and Sunday is our main CLUB day. We encourage new players, young and old, including families with young children, passers by, to join us. We regularly invite players from neighbouring clubs to come along and compete with our teams. Our experienced players also offer free coaching and advice to local community groups and youth groups such as the 3rd ONGAR Scouts and the local schools. For many of our members a weekly car parking charge would prove prohibitive.
2. Our club will lose some of our regular and loyal members - especially those of our elderly members who rely on this activity for social and health reasons.
3. The proposed charge would discourage new members to join.
4. The Car Park on a Sunday morning is frequently FULL – with ramblers, dog walkers, children's football and rugby players walking through to the ONGAR SPORTS field and RECREATION AREA, or following the historic footpath around the Castle moat and ground. The charge would deter all these groups from taking their regular weekend exercise. This at a time when Councils are supposed to be encouraging people to keep fit and exercise.
5. Our Petanque Club with the Ongar Twinning Association hosts the Ongar Town Festival in May each year and in 2018 brought over 3000 people to Ongar on one Sunday morning – benefitting all the local shops, restaurants, businesses and Community groups in Ongar. The Festival featured a Petanque Competition with over 60 players in the Pleasance Car Park, organised by our current Club Members with great success. Another Town Festival is already planned for 5th May 2019 and Petanque will again be the centrepiece, this year with a possible 96 players.
6. Do EFDC want to lose the opportunity of re-vitalising the Town of ONGAR – by penalising our Petanque members every Sunday, to see the Petanque group fold and the Festival thwarted ?
7. By offering free parking on a Sunday – visitors are encouraged to come and use the facilities Ongar has to offer.
8. The shops and businesses open on a Sunday striving to keep Ongar alive , would lose a large amount of their custom and revenue, when Ongar charge their customers to park, and many neighbouring boroughs DO NOT charge on Sunday.

We as a group of responsible and long-standing Ongarians appeal to EFDC to re-consider their proposal to charge your local residents to park, and to allow them to continue to enjoy the beauty of the Ongar Cerizay Garden, the Castle walk, the recreation areas for children and their families that have been created via the Pleasance Car Park to keep people fit and healthy, especially on a Sunday – the one day when most families can come together and build strong relationships with their home town and enjoy the freedom of open space.

WE PROPOSE :

E.F.D.C continues to ALLOW FREE PARKING AT THE PLEASANCE CAR PARK, HIGH STREET, ONGAR ON SUNDAYS – and also the neighbouring Car Parks at Sainsbury's and Banson's Lane, to cope with the numbers of people using the nearby facilities on a regular basis.

Thank you

Carolyn Innocent. 31st January 2019

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The following people have duly read and signed their agreement to the proposal for reasons stated above.