

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 16 NOVEMBER 2004

KILMARNOCK TOWN CENTRE – CHRISTMAS PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

Report By Executive Director of Development & Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to request the Committee to approve the arrangements for parking charges in the short stay car parks in Kilmarnock Town Centre on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas this year, and in future years.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** At its meeting on 23 October 2001 the Committee agreed to impose normal charges on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas in the short stay car parks, with free parking in the long stay car parks, including the multi storey, which is otherwise closed on Sundays during the rest of the year.
- 2.2** The purpose of this arrangement is to ensure a regular turnover of available spaces throughout the day in the short stay car parks. These would otherwise be filled early in the day by people parking all day free of charge, resulting in queues at these car parks throughout the day, or forcing later shoppers to tour the town centre seeking a parking space.
- 2.3** On the 21 October 2003, the Committee approved the same arrangements for Christmas 2003. The Committee also noted that improved publicity would be undertaken to ensure that shoppers and businesses were aware of the arrangements.
- 2.4** These arrangements worked well. The publicity included a press article, leaflets and large prominent signs in the car parks. The central car parks, both charging and free, were consistently busy. The parking charges in the short stay car parks achieved their objective of ensuring that there was a turnover of available spaces in the most popular car parks throughout the day. The free long stay car parks ensured that there was ample free parking for Christmas shoppers close to all parts of the town.
- 2.5** Last year the small car park in Nelson Street was reserved for disabled motorists only (free of charge). However this arrangement did not work as intended. It was not, in fact, used by disabled drivers who preferred to park nearer their destinations. It also caused some confusion for other motorists who normally use this car park. It is therefore proposed to leave this car park open for all motorists as normal – i.e. as a short stay charging car park.

3. PROPOSALS FOR 2004 AND FUTURE YEARS

3.1 It is proposed that for Christmas this year and in future years the same arrangements should be implemented as last year, without the reservation of the small Nelson Street car park for disabled drivers. The arrangements would, therefore, be as follows:-

3.1.1 In the four Sundays leading up to Christmas,

1. Free parking in the long stay car parks in the town centre, including the multi storey
2. Normal charges in the short stay car parks.
3. Special arrangements, as in previous years, for free parking for local Church congregations in the short stay car park in St Marnock Street.

3.2 It is proposed that these arrangements continue in future years. Should the need arise to alter the arrangements in future in response to a change in circumstances, an appropriate report would be submitted for the Committee's approval, at that time.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The existing Order under which charges are proposed in the car parks includes the provision for charges on Sundays. On normal Sundays this provision is not enforced.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The cost of car park supervision on the four Sundays prior to Christmas has been met in previous years from the increased income. However little or no surplus has been generated since many of the car parks where charges normally apply under the arrangements through the week were free on the Sundays, under the Christmas arrangements.

5.2 If the Committee do not agree to impose charges on the four Sundays leading to Christmas it should be noted that the multi storey car park would require to remain closed since this requires supervision and there would be no income to cover this cost. There would also be no income to cover the cost of supervision of disabled parking bays in surface car parks.

5.3 The cost of the advance publicity for the arrangements would be met from existing budgets.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee is recommended to;

- i) approve the introduction of parking charges in the short stay car parks in Kilmarnock on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas this year and in future years, as detailed in the report.

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services
2 November 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Sandy Gillatt on 01563 - 555734

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