

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 21 OCTOBER 2003**

#### **KILMARNOCK TOWN CENTRE – CHRISTMAS PARKING ARRANGEMENTS**

##### **Report By Director of Development Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to seek the Committee's guidance regarding off-street parking charges in the Kilmarnock Town Centre car parks on the four Sundays in December, prior to Christmas.

### **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. 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 to capacity early in the day, forcing later arrivals to tour the town centre seeking a parking space.
- 2.2** Last year, in addition to the arrangements in place for previous years, the small car park in Nelson Street was reserved for disabled motorists only (free of charge), and special arrangements were made for free parking for the congregation of St Marnock Parish Church who normally park in the short stay car park at St Marnock Street. As in previous years free parking was also made available in the Howard Park.

### **3 ASSESSMENT**

- 3.1** The arrangements in place last year appeared to work well. The central car parks were consistently busy, with an increased usage closer to Christmas. Car parking charges appear to have achieved their objective of ensuring that there was a turnover throughout the day instead of the most accessible parking spaces being blocked by early arrivals for the whole day. Supervision of car parks also made it possible to control the use of the disabled parking bays including the area reserved at Nelson Street.
- 3.2** In spite of the posting of advance notices in all relevant car parks, however, a number of motorists claimed not to be aware of the Sunday charges. If charging is introduced again this year better advance publicity would be desirable.

## **4 PROPOSALS**

- 4.1** It is proposed that for Christmas this year the same arrangements should be implemented as last year including the improvements noted at para 2.2 above. It is proposed to undertake improved publicity including press notices, leaflets, contact with town centre businesses and churches, and more prominent advance notices in the car parks.

## **5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** The Order under which charges are imposed in the car parks includes the provision for charges on Sundays. On normal Sundays this provision is not in force.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** The cost of car park supervision including the issue of penalty notices on the four Sundays prior to Christmas has been met in previous years from increased income, although little or no surplus has been generated since many of the car parks where charges normally apply are free.
- 6.2** 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.

## **7 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1** It is recommended that the Committee agree to continue the previous practice of imposing normal charges in the Council's short stay car parks within Kilmarnock Town Centre subject to the detailed arrangements set out in para 2.2 and appropriate publicity as outlined in para 4.1 above.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**  
**7 October 2003**  
**SCSG/YK**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

For further information please contact Sandy Gillatt on 01563 555734

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