

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DOVER JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

MOTOR CARAVAN (MOTOR HOME) PARKING CONTROLS

Recommendation:

1. *The Board is asked to recommend which, if any, restriction option for caravan and motor caravan (motorhome) parking it would like officers to consult further with stakeholders on, in each of the three areas:*
 - *Dover Seafront*
 - *The Beach, Walmer*
 - *The Quay Car Park, Sandwich*
2. *The Board is asked to confirm the list of stakeholders it would like officers to include in any of the consultations.*
3. *The Board is asked if it would like officers to advertise/consult on a proposal to exclude caravan and motor caravans (motor homes) and other large vehicles from qualifying for residents' permits.*

Contact Officer: Rubena Hafizi

1. A report was brought before the Board at its last meeting on 13 June 2019 detailing the results of consultations with local residents considering restrictions on the parking of motor caravans (motor homes) in the following 3 locations:
 - Dover Seafront
 - The Beach, Walmer
 - The Quay Car Park, Sandwich

Whilst the majority of responders to the consultation agreed that the Council should introduce controls on the parking of motor homes, there was a mixed response with the majority of residents who responded, supporting a prohibition (either all day or overnight).

2. The Board resolved that officers should look to see if they could identify alternative locations for parking motor homes and to report these back to the Board prior to further consultations. These alternatives are detailed later in this report.
3. The Board also resolved that any future consultations should be extended to beyond just contacting the nearby properties. In response to this last point, officers have suggested that the following stakeholders should be included in future consultations concerning the provision of parking for caravans and motor caravans:
 - nearby properties overlooking the proposed parking place
 - the local town or parish council
 - the local chamber of commerce
 - the (motor) caravan association

In addition, laminated A4 notices can be put up at the sites inviting others to comment.

The options considered in this report have also taken into account the Council's Tourism Strategy to enhance the experience for tourists visiting the District.

Dover Seafront

4. The seafront is a popular location for the overnight parking of caravans and motor caravans, particularly during the summer season. This is due to the amenities on the seafront and the close proximity to the Port Of Dover. However, it is not popular with the residents along the seafront who responded to the earlier consultation.
5. To accommodate the parking demand and to support the Council's Transport Strategy it would not be unreasonable to charge motor caravans and caravans for overnight parking along the seafront. It is suggested that a single £5 fee (as opposed to hourly rate) for overnight parking be introduced. This would only apply to caravans and motor caravans – cars and motorcycles could continue to park for free overnight. The proposed overnight charging period for caravans and motor caravans would be from 6pm until 9am, 7 days a week.
6. Maison Dieu Road Car Park has been identified as an alternative location for the overnight parking of caravans and motor caravans. This, too, could operate from 6pm until 9am.

The Beach Walmer

7. The demand for motor caravan parking in Walmer is different from Dover. The free and unrestricted seafront parking along The Beach is an obvious attraction for motor homes, which can be divided into two distinct groups: The first is the long-term parking of motor caravans thought to belong to locals and the second group is made up of summer visitors, some who reportedly stay for days at a time. The general feeling is that residents don't mind motor homes on day visits, but do mind those that stay longer and who camp overnight.
8. One way to address this would be to introduce overnight charging for caravans and motor caravans. As with the Dover proposal, this could be a single £5 fee (as opposed to hourly rate) for overnight parking operating from 6pm until 9am, 7 days a week. This would only apply to caravans and motor caravans – cars and motorcycles could continue to park for free, day or night, as now. New pay & display machines would need to be purchased and installed (approximate cost of £5.5K per machine) and further restrictions prohibiting caravans and motor caravans from parking further along The Beach, Kingsdown Road and in Granville Road could be considered.
9. The Borrow Pit Car Park is the only site that had been identified to accommodate the overnight parking of caravans and motor caravans in Walmer. Currently this car park is locked at night.

The Quay Car Park, Sandwich

10. The problem in The Quay is different from both Dover and Walmer. Some of the motor caravans in the car park belong to residents who use their residents' permits for the long-term parking of motor homes; others belong to visitors who pay the required day time charge for parking a motor home in the car park.
11. To address the issue, it is proposed to introduce overnight charging for motor caravans (motor homes) in The Quay Car Park. Again, this would be a single £5 fee (as

opposed to hourly rate) for overnight parking, operating from 6pm until 9am, 7 days a week. This would only apply to motor caravans – cars and motorcycles could continue to park for free overnight. However, unlike Dover and Walmer, towed caravans would continue to be excluded as there is insufficient space to access the car park.

12. Gazen Salts Car Park has been identified as a possible alternative site for the overnight parking of motor homes. This, too, could operate from 6pm until 9am, 7 days a week. This would also afford an opportunity for the Council to phase out the use of residents' permits for motor homes by offering this alternative site for existing residents using residents' permits to park motor homes.
13. It is not recommended that Gazen Salts or any other car park in Sandwich be considered for providing parking for towed caravans.
14. Evaluation of options available to the Board:
 - a. To direct officers to consult with stakeholders on all or any of the options contained within this report
 - b. To direct officers to amend any or all of the options contained within this report and before consulting with stakeholders
 - c. To withdraw all the proposals
15. The Board is asked to advise on the recommendations detailed at the top of this report.

Consultation Statement

The Portfolio Holder for Transport & Licensing has been consulted on the proposal outlined in this report.

Background Papers

Parking Services Files.

Attachments

None.

ROGER WALTON

Strategic Director (Operations & Commercial)

The officer to whom reference should be made concerning inspection of the background papers is the Transport and Parking Services Manager, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ. Telephone: (01304) 821199, Extension 42046