



Clerk: June Gurry
Telephone: 01803 207013
E-mail address: governance.support@torbay.gov.uk

Governance Support
Town Hall
Castle Circus
Torquay
TQ1 3DR

COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2012

The attached letters of representation were circulated at the adjourned Council meeting on Wednesday, 8 February 2012.

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3.	Revenue Budget Proposal 2012/2013	(Pages 1 - 22)

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TORBAY SPORTS COUNCIL

Wensley Court
48, Barton Road
Torquay
Devon TQ1 4DW

THE CHARGES FOR HIRING TORBAY COUNCIL'S SPORTING FACILITIES DURING 2012/13

The Executive Committee of Torbay Sports Council has considered the proposed increases in the above charges, and asks for its comments to be conveyed to the full meeting of Torbay Council.

“This year, in Torbay, will be hosting many major events which celebrate both The London Olympic Games, and the Herald Express “Love Life” campaign.

In living memory, there will NEVER have been a greater effort to persuade our communities to embrace fitness programmes, and/or to join our local sports clubs.

Whilst the Torbay Sports Council understands the financial restraints imposed upon our Councillors, it respectfully suggests that this is not the right time to impose a 3% increase to its facility hire charges.

We ask it to reflect whether or not the relatively small amount raised is worth the mixed message which it conveys”

Thank you for considering our comments.

The Executive Committee of the Torbay Sports Council

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From: Si Spot [si.spot@live.co.uk]
Sent: 07 February 2012 15:17
To: Buckley, Teresa
Subject: RE: Council Meeting - 8/2/2012

Dear Councillors

Below is a message from Angela. She has a learning disability. It took her a long time to say what she wanted to say to you. The cuts to Adult Social Care will have a devastating effect on services. So please read Angela's message. One person – worried about hundreds of other people – asking YOU for support.

“This is terrible. The cuts will stop people from doing things and meeting their friends. People will be very lonely and worried. They will not be safe. It is not fair. We should be equal. We have our rights too. Please help people like me. We need more money to help keep important services. Do not make us miss out. Do not hurt people who need your help.”

Thank-You

Angela

Spot

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On behalf of
Fair Parking For Torbay
We would like to submit the
following statements and
questions.

Question?

Following the Budget Consultation, how can Torbay Council state that a 54% majority against a proposal is mixed support for a proposal?

Question?

When is a consultation not a
consultation but an informal
meeting?

Excerpt from Transport Working Party Agenda

Pack 5th January 2012

“An initial open Public Meeting of the Transport Working Party was held on 5th September 2011 to consider the proposals included in the parking opportunities originally included within the PIP Project. Following the meeting further consultations took place with town traders, local groups and Community Partnerships in the areas affected specifically by the introduction of more parking meters.

Excerpt from Herald Express 2nd February 2012

A Torbay Council Spokesman said,

“The review of parking in Torbay took place over several months and involved a period of statutory consultation as well as informal community partnership meetings.”

Question?

When did Torbay Council cease to regard Community Partnerships as part of any formal consultations and where is the documentation sent out to Community Partnerships informing them of this change in procedure?

Question?

Does this therefore mean that the Executive Lead for Safer Communities and Transport along with a Council Officer whilst attending a Community Partnership can provide false information to ensure that objections to proposals are minimised?

Question?

Why did the Executive Lead for Safer Communities and a Council officer fail to advise the Transport Working Party the tariffs they had indicated would be charged along Torquay

Sea Front?

Question?

Why are the charges along Torquay Sea front
£4.50 for 4 hours when we were told that they
would be no more than £2 for 4 hours?

Question?

Why are Torbay Council ignoring the advice of Mary Portas following the review that the Government commissioned her to carry out which states,

“Local areas should implement free controlled parking schemes that work for their town centres and we should have a new parking league table.”

Have you read it?

Question?

Did Torbay Council make on and off street parking service orders as part of their parking review. If so when and where were they advertised. What was the period for objections? Specifically referring to the meters that went up along Torquay Sea Front - they initially stated no return in 4 hours but that was changed. Was there a parking service order made for this change?

Fair Parking For Torbay

Have been out talking to residents to get their views on the parking charges across the Bay.

Here are some of their comments.

are they really charging the prices stated ?? no wonder on a sunny (but cold) afternoon yesterday at lunchtime there were only 2 cars parked along the seafront !!!!!

"Went to Totnes Friday. It was very busy. Managed to find a parking spot on the main street. 60p for a hours parking. Perhaps thats why it was very busy.

"If Torbay Council want to regenerate the local economy, why don't they have a "1st hour free" policy in Town Centre car parks? Those who want to park "local to use" can still use the parking meters, but those using the car parks will regenerate the High Streets!"

"In February 2011 I made a request under the Freedom of Information Act for advice regarding "How many council employees are provided with free parking vouchers for Torbay Authority Car Parks". I was alarmed to be advised that "There are 1553 staff permits in circulation" at that time!

The cost for the equivalent Annual Permit to a Torbay resident is £510, therefore the 1553 staff permits represents missed revenue to Torbay Council of £792,030! If the council employees pay daily, at £8.00 per day, Torbay Council is losing £3.1 million!

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Why should council employees get free parking? Other companies and individuals who need to use their cars to travel to work have to pay for their parking, Torbay Council don't pay for those staff who use public transport, and they are subsidising the most environmentally unfriendly mode of transport known to man!

I expect there are those who must use their cars for business, but they should be reimbursed through their expenses. Torbay Council don't pay for their insurance, car tax, etc., why should you pay for their parking?

Further, I consider the staff permits to be a "Payment in Kind", and I will be reporting the matter as such to HM Revenue & Customs.

The Council are looking for more places to install parking meters or Pay and Display, they have destroyed the High Streets of Torbay with their parking charges, and yet they "look after the boys" with free parking permits – not just for their place of work, but ANYWHERE IN TORBAY!

The Council could be earning additional income of at least £1 million by withdrawing this concession, and possibly getting more cars off our roads and passengers onto public transport. The Council should be setting an example to the

community – stop these staff permits immediately!

"This extra burden on finding some where to park at a reasonable price will kill more businesses in Torbay than the recession has so far if people cannot or will not pay to park then the town centres will become ghost towns watch out for the tumble weeds"

"I see the council have doubled the cost of meter parking at Paignton seafront since the New Year."

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"On our recent visit to Torquay I was shocked and stunned to find the installation of parking meters, where once you could park for free between certain times of the day. How can the council justify this move, do they want people to visit or just drive people away. Seaton has had meters installed along it's sea front what a mistake, the town has now become a ghost town. I support the people of Torquay in their quest regards these meters, this would mean a nail in the coffin of the town."

"Total disgust in the way they have put these new meters along Tor Abbey Sands. Will people really want to pay to stay 4 hrs max in the summer. Infact not many people park there at the minute. As soon as they see they have to pay they drive off."

"As a Devonian and long term resident in Torquay I feel the increase in parking charges and

extension of metered pay zones is bringing a further death knell on shopping in Torquay. I visit the town every day and have parked in a 2 hour spot in the area of the museum, when they fit the meters I will stop, as will many others. What is to happen to the B & B in this area. Wake up Excell and other Councillors before you completely kill off Torbay."

"about time we had cheaper parking !! nobody goes to town anymore

: "Just about accept the concept of meters, but the level of charges are way too high. I'm certainly going to boycott them and if enough people do the same the cost of meter parking will have to reduce Went to library yesterday - 30 mins more than adequate - charge now minimum 40 mins £1. Drove round to Morgan Ave and and parked free for up to an hour."

: "Another nail in the coffin for tourists, its working!!!"

Just been around to drop off some flyers. Never been greeted with such open arms. people really are fed up with overpriced parking charges. One old lady told me that she was outraged by having to pay £1 just to pop into the library to change a book. Is this true?

Finding it increasingly difficult to park near to our own homes due to people either refusing or unable to pay parking charges They are obviously. happy to drive out of town to avoid charges and its only January. I understand entirely but it is going to cause a load of problems in the summer.

Plenty of cars parked down Marine Drive Preston where of course it's free!

Well done both of you for last night at the Shipway and Willows CP public meeting, I think you made your point!!!

Lots of leaflets given out today along Torbay Sea Front and Promenade. People agree parking charges have gone too

far and are killing our Town Centres

11 cars parked along the seafront this morning, usually no spaces at all on a Sunday. Talked to approx 20 people all very angry about the charges

only people parked on sea front today were blue badge holders. What a surprise!

There is certainly no doubt that this matter has been handled poorly/ people have been misled. These charges are far too high and it makes no sense to expect people to leave the beach in order to return to feed meters. Many people choose a beach option as they are cash strapped. This daily charge may push even this option away from them. In the desperate scramble to generate revenue through what appears an easy option, the very thing that we are seeking to do for Torquay seems to be being forgotten - we want visitors to come here and stay and use what we have on offer - spending their money - yes - but in local businesses and shops not in a meter. Let us also not forget the poor local. We too might fancy a trip into town or to the beach when the warm weather returns. We shouldn't be placing obstacles in the way like this!

Question?

**How many councillors actually went out
and talked to local residents and
businesses about the proposed parking
review?**

Question?

A council officer told us that the new coins shouldn't be a problem, we tried them and the meter would not accept them – so clearly they are a problem which would explain why on the same day Fair Parking For

Torbay saw a sub contractor for the council recalibrating the machines. How much has this cost?