

PREMISES COMMITTEE

29 OCTOBER 2012

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES RECEIVED REGARDING FREE CAR PARKS & TOILETS

REPORT BY THE TOWN CLERK

The total population of St Just is 4,637. There are currently 1,772 men and 1,921 women aged 20 years and over. As of 16 October there are 3,813 people on the Electoral Register.

A total of 29 responses have been received. Three in support coming from non resident locals (tourists and a resident of Sancreed parish).

Excluding the 3, the response represents 0.7% of those on the Electoral Register.

19 were in favour of retaining the car parks as “free at point of use with 7 against (one anonymous).

Of the letters / emails received in support of retaining the car parks as “free at the point of use”:-

- 2 did not necessarily accept an increase in the precept, as in their view there was no justification for having to pay Cornwall Council market rate for an asset already in public ownership – assets transferred to CC under local government re-organisation at no financial cost – tax payers have already paid for them – no moral case for any charge for their own facilities.
- 1 respondent wanted further information on the full financial impact on Council Tax before making financial decision on whether to support keeping the car parks free.
- Other comments included keeping the car parks free to local residents – minimise cost to Council Tax payers. If charges introduced there would be an incremental increase in on-street car parking / Impact on local businesses if car parks not free / loss of business rates from business closures could potentially exceed net gains from parking charges / car parks publically owned, why should local people have to pay “market rate” / possibly consider introducing charging for toilets as local residents in the main don’t use them, but keep car parks free.
- **Options for consideration:**
 - Residents permit badge scheme
 - Gratuity Box
 - Introduce charging for the toilets as mainly used by visitors / tourists to the area – not local residents.

7 letters were received against keeping the car parks “free at the point of use”

- Not happy with concept of purchasing land already in public ownership
- Town Council to be more transparent about costs before asking people to pay.
- Lack of understanding about the rise in precept.
- Request to know the actual freehold cost.
- Not free – issue is who will pay

- Unfair to financially burden those who do not use the car park
- **Suggestions**
 - £1 per day charge
 - School children drop off / collect permit
 - Purchasing scheme supported by the Chamber of Commerce
 - Standardised parking charges across the county
 - Council buys land elsewhere to provide a free car park for local residents
 - Discount for local motorists

Summary

As the responses received only represents 0.7% of those on the electoral register they cannot be interpreted as the overall views of the local community on the issue.

The information is presented as a basis for discussion for the Committee.

The Committee's instructions are sought.

Elaine Baker
Town Clerk

Background Paper: Letter / comments received as part of the consultation exercise.