

MEETING REPORT FOR RINGWOULD WITH KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 15.01.24

Firstly we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and to hope that you all enjoyed the time with your friends and family. There are only two items concerning the district and they are as follows:

BENCH STREET CAR PARK, DOVER

That has now closed permanently because of the Dover Beacon redevelopment.

PROPOSED PARKING CHARGES FOR 2024/25

3.3: The following is an extract from the DDC Cabinet Agenda which will go for approval at their next meeting on 15th January. It was published late in the afternoon on Friday 5th January. For access to the complete papers go to Item 8 on this link:

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 15/01/2024 18:00 \(dover.gov.uk\)](#)

3.3: Car parking provision does not come for free, and the maintenance of the facilities provided are all at a significant cost to the Council. There are several car parks that have no charges but are well used. Some of these car parks also suffer from a low turnover, reducing the availability of spaces for all users. It is suggested that these should have charges introduced to relieve and prevent traffic congestion by the better management of the availability of parking spaces, and to generate income.

The suggested car parks are as follows:

- **Borrow Pit, Walmer;** Reach Road, St Margarets at Cliffe; High Street, Ash; High Street, Wingham; High Street, Eastry and Victoria Park, Deal.

The parking tariff within these car parks will match the existing tariffs and payments will be cashless only.

- Tides, Deal. There will be a free parking period of 3 hours for Tides users only. Other uses of the car park will be charged at £1.80 per hour.

- **St Margarets Bay Car Park charges will apply all year round.**

3.4: We have identified an increase in charges for both on and off-street pay & display of 20p per hour.

On the local front there were some issues which we continued to respond to yourselves and residents on and they were as follows:

LOCAL ISSUES

1). 15 NORTH RD

I received a response from the enforcement officer to my chaser of 10th December to say that he had been unwell but intended to visit the site that week. I have still heard nothing and forwarded another chaser on 6th January.

2) KINGSDOWN RAMP

At the request of one of the residents during the last meeting Ollie contacted DDC for advice and received the following response from Keith Watson:

The ramp opposite the Zetland needs a healthy amount of shingle and a high tide to be operational as it doesn't span far enough down the beach as opposed to the other ramp by the beach huts. Then of course you need to negotiate the parked cars opposite the Zetland and the awkward L shaped ramp through the splash wall to get onto the promenade. The area just doesn't lend itself to boat users turning up with a boat on a trailer say, that will need a substantial turning circle and then somewhere suitable to leave the trailer. The Zetland PH use to be a very quiet locals pub, so access wasn't too much of an issue, but since changing hands and being made into a successful business with an influx of customers there is no longer the space (even during winter). DDC have also adapted their licence to increase the seating/tables on the beach beyond the car park.

For this reason, I have encouraged members of the public or locals to join Kingsdown Angling club, that want to launch boats - this would allow them to have access to the better ramp and winch house. It is however worth pointing out the dynamics of the area have really changed over the years with a big up take in swimmers which have formed a club attracting channel swimmers, which also use the ramp. This has caused friction in the past over its use and safety. It's certainly easier to access and I think a complete refresh on the area with a review of the boat plots, angling club and beach huts to understand the current needs so the ramp is used to its full potential would be the way to go with this.