

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting the Decision

Programme Manager, Cleansing & Open Spaces

Officer Making the Decision

Head of Cleansing & Open Spaces

Recommendation

That the proposed Cemeteries and Recreational fees and charges as detailed in Appendix A are implemented from 1st April 2022.

Reasons

It is customary for the Head of Cleansing & Open Spaces to review the fees and charges within the Department. The revised charges have been established through careful consideration and are intended to help ensure financial income targets can be achieved in 2022/23.

Authority for Decision

Item 1 of the delegations to Heads of Service in section 8.3 of the Constitution gives authority to undertake the periodic review of fees and charges raised within their service areas and falling within the scope of the Council's Income and Charging Policy Framework. The lead members for Open Spaces & Leisure and Finance and Internal Support Services have also been consulted as part of the review process.

Decision and Date

Approved - 16th March 2022



Matt Bradford
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces

Background

The Authority for approving fees and charges has been delegated to the Head of Cleansing & Open Spaces. The proposed fees and charges detailed in the report have been put forward having taken into consideration the Council's Income and Charging Policy.

An extensive benchmarking exercise was carried out between January and February 2017. Two baskets of authorities were used as comparators. The first basket included local authorities with similar characteristics as categorised by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), while the second basket consisted of all the Leicestershire districts and boroughs. After analysing the results, it was found that Charnwood Borough Council has been consistently charging considerably lower fees compared to the other authorities. In February 2020 a sample selection and comparison within the same groups revealed that the Council was still charging below the average in most of the categories.

At the same time, it was highlighted that the income the Council generates from hiring its facilities is not enough to offset the cost of their maintenance.

Considering both of the above facts, it was agreed that Charnwood Borough Council would uplift the fees and charges for Open Spaces in line with the annual Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation (8%). This will ensure that the Council will continue to be able to provide the same quality of service for all users.

Financial Implications

The additional income expected as a result of the price increase is estimated to be in the region of £8,000 and will be used to offset part of the maintenance cost of the sites. Despite the price increases, Charnwood Borough Council still provides a good value for money service in line with its Open Spaces Strategy.

Proposed Charges

The following recreational and cemetery charges are proposed for implementation from the 1st April 2022.

The charges for Open Spaces have been increased by 8% which is in line with the current RPI, while cemetery charges were increased by 10%, which is 2% above RPI. The latter was decided in order to compensate some of the development costs of the new cemetery site at Nanpantan Road. The Head of Finance and Property Services has advised that RPI is running at 8%. With roundings there may be slight variations from this figure.

Appendix A details the associated revised fees and charges in Tables 1 – 6:

| |
|---|
| Table 1: Non-standard recreational and amenity charges |
| Table 2: Hiring of open spaces |
| Table 3: Interment charges |
| Table 4: Burial charges |
| Table 5: Monuments and gravestones (including inscriptions) |
| Table 6: Cemetery – miscellaneous charges |

Risk Management

| Risk Identified | Likelihood | Impact | Risk Management Actions Planned |
|--|-------------------|---------------|---|
| Resistance to price increases by clubs/customers | Possible | Moderate | Benchmarking with other local providers has been undertaken and the proposed charges reflect this local variance. |

Key Decision

No

Background Papers

No

APPENDIX A:

Non-Standard Recreational and Amenity Charges 2022/23

The following recreational charges are peculiar to Charnwood Borough Council
The following charges are suggested for implementation from 1st April 2022

Table 1: Non-Standard Recreational and Amenity Charges

| Amenity | Description | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|----------|---|---------|---------|
| Fishing | Day Fishing at Charnwood Water | | |
| | Adults (day ticket) – per rod | 6.20 | 6.80 |
| | Concessionary (day ticket) – per rod | 3.10 | 3.40 |
| | Adult (Season ticket) | 63.00 | 68.00 |
| | Concessionary (Season ticket) | 31.50 | 34.00 |
| Rounders | Per occasion – Adult | 46.00 | 50.00 |
| | Per occasion – Concessionary | 23.00 | 25.00 |
| Golf | Use of Shelthorpe Golf course inclusive of club and putter hire | | |
| | Winter Greens Oct – Mar inclusive | | |
| | Adult (per 18 holes) | 8.00 | 9.00 |
| | Concessionary (per 18 holes) | 4.00 | 4.50 |
| | Adults (per 9 holes) | 6.40 | 7.00 |
| | Concessionary (per 9 holes) | 3.20 | 3.50 |
| | School parties (per person per 9 holes) | 2.80 | 3.00 |
| | Summer Greens Apr – Sept inclusive | | |
| | Adults (per 18 holes) | 9.00 | 9.80 |
| | Concessionary (per 18 holes) | 4.50 | 4.90 |
| | Adults (per 9 holes) | 7.00 | 7.60 |
| | Concessionary (per 9 holes) | 3.50 | 3.80 |
| | School parties (per person per 9 holes) | 2.70 | 3.00 |
| | Adult season ticket | 160.00 | 172.00 |
| | Concessionary season ticket | 80.00 | 86.00 |
| | Miscellaneous | | |
| | Lost or damaged putter | 27.80 | 30.00 |
| | Lost or damaged club | 40.00 | 43.00 |
| | Golf ball sale (higher quality) | 3.20 | 3.50 |
| | Golf ball sale (lower quality) | 2.50 | 2.70 |
| | Pack of tees (10 pack) | 1.50 | 1.60 |

| Amenity | Description | | |
|------------------------|---|---------|---------|
| Allotments | Ploughing, rotavating, scuffing or flailing of allotments | | |
| * See Below | Per operation / per plot | POR | POR |
| | | | |
| Allotment rent 2022/23 | Rent of allotments on permanent sites. | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
| | Per 100 sq. yds per annum | 22.60 | 23.80 |
| | Rent of allotments on temporary sites | | |
| | Per 100 sq. yds per annum | 18.20 | 19.10 |
| Allotment rent 2023/24 | NB. Allotment holders should receive 12 months notification of rent increases. The rental for 2021/22 is also shown at 5% | | |
| | Rent of allotments on permanent sites. | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
| | Per 100 sq. yds per annum | 23.80 | 26.20 |
| | Rent of allotments on temporary sites | | |
| | Per 100 sq. yds per annum | 19.10 | 21.00 |

* Due to the wide variations in plot size, accessibility and machinery needed, a single price is impractical. Individual prices will be given on request.

| Amenity | Description | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|----------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Cricket | Use of Pitch and Changing Facilities | | |
| | Adult | 60.00 | 65.00 |
| | Concessionary | 30.00 | 32.50 |
| | Use of Pitch only | | |
| | Adult | 57.00 | 61.60 |
| | Concessionary | 28.50 | 30.80 |
| Football | Use of Pitch and Changing Facilities | | |
| | Adult | 60.00 | 65.00 |
| | Junior | 30.00 | 32.50 |
| | Use of Pitch only | | |
| | Adult | 57.00 | 61.60 |
| | Junior | 28.50 | 30.80 |
| | Training sessions | | |
| | Adult | 29.00 | 32.00 |
| | Juniors | 14.50 | 16.00 |

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Rugby | Use of Pitch and Changing Facilities | | |
| | Adult | 60.00 | 65.00 |
| | Junior | 30.00 | 32.50 |
| | Use of Pitch only | | |
| | Adult | 57.00 | 61.60 |
| | Junior | 28.50 | 30.80 |
| Tennis | Use of Court per Hour | | |
| | Adult | 8.00 | 8.60 |
| | Concessionary | 4.00 | 4.30 |
| Netball | Use of Court per Hour | | |
| | Adult | 13.20 | 14.20 |
| | Concessionary | 6.60 | 7.10 |
| Bowls | Use of Court per Hour | | |
| | Adult | 5.40 | 5.80 |
| | Concessionary | 2.70 | 2.90 |
| Model Yacht Club Use of Charnwood Water | Annual fee by agreement per person | 35.00 | 38.00 |

It was recognised in 2016 that the pricing structure for the hiring of Open Spaces was in need of a review. The aim was to develop a clear, consistent, transparent and fair structure that could be easily followed and explained to the public.

The new structure is based on the size of the event as well as the nature and scope of the organiser.

Table 2: Hiring of Open Spaces

| Charges 2022 / 2023 | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | Standard Event Charge | Bigger Event Enhanced Rate | Concession @ 33% | Charge Waived |
| Large Scale Event Areas (up to 2000 people daily estimated) | £780.00 | Price on application | £260.00 | On application to Head of service |
| Southfields Park | | | | |
| Queens Park | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Medium Scale Event Areas (up to 750 people daily estimated) | £540.00 | £750.00 | £180.00 | On application to Head of service |
| Charnwood Water | | | | |
| Morley Quarry | | | | |
| The Outwoods | | | | |
| Stonebow Washlands | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Small Scale Event Areas (up to 150 people daily estimated) | £165.00 | Not Applicable | £55.00 | On application to Head of service |
| Radmoor Road | | | | |
| Shelthorpe Open Space | | | | |
| Jubilee Park | | | | |
| Gorse Covert | | | | |
| Stapleford Park | | | | |
| Garendon Green | | | | |
| Booth Wood | | | | |
| Pignut Spinney | | | | |
| Sidings Park | | | | |
| Forest Road Green Belt | | | | |

Proposed Categories

1. Charge Waived. Exemption On Application (EOA) to Head of Service

Principally targeted at smaller scale community groups and organisations, this could also apply to internal CBC projects promoting the Council's values.

Specifically, small scale events run by local groups and organisations which are not formally constituted as a charity, Community Interest Company (CIC), social enterprise or other similar body or linked to a larger organisation.

For example, these might include local "Friends of park" groups but not local branches of larger national organisations.

This new category relates to hire groups 11 and 2 from the previous structure:

- 11. Residents only events (supported by Residents, associations or groups)*
- 2. Borough festivals and promotions*

2. Concessionary Charge

This is principally targeted at charities and formally constituted Not for Profit Organisations.

Charities, social enterprises or other such organisations with a constitution or articles of association which include appropriate non distribution of profit and dissolution clauses.

This will be set at 33% of the standard rate, which for small scale events in smaller areas, is **broadly similar to the charge from last year**. Additionally, individual exemptions could be made by the Head of Service where the event is in line with the Council's Corporate Plan or Open Spaces' Strategy.

This category relates to hire groups 6 and 7 from the previous structure:

- 6. Charity events*
- 7. Charity fund raising*

3. Standard Charge

Principally targeted at private events where an open space is hired for a private event and is not open to the general public, and **Commercial Organisations** running events of varying sizes on a commercial or profit-making basis. These might include fun fairs and rides, trade fairs, corporate events and other similar themed events.

This category relates to hire groups 8, 10 and 12 from the previous structure:

- 8. Regulated car boot sales (Nanpantan Sports Ground and Derby Road Playing Fields only)*
- 10. Private use (Wedding photographs)*
- 12. Commercial bodies*

In the case of a large event with exclusive access, then this should be treated / charged for as a commercial event. Where a bigger event is planned with estimated attendance over and above the usual capacity of a medium or large site, an additional charge for bigger events may apply.

Potential exemption (by Head of Service) on application

There are a small number of events for which in most instances, charges may be waived. It is important to have a process in place to ensure the exemption is consistently applied.

This relates to category 3 under the existing structure:

- 3. Worship and religious groups*

Other Categories

There are a number of organisations which currently are exempt that would also need to be considered on a case by case basis by application to the Head of Service. This is an important safeguard when dealing with applications for example by fringe political organisations.

This refers specifically to hire groups 4 and 5 of the existing structure:

- 4. Political events*
- 5. Political fund raising*

Finally, there are some categories which can be covered under the other exemptions already described depending on how the organisation is constituted and the purpose of the event.

This relates to the existing groups 1, 9, and 13 which is subject to a separately identified charge.

- 1. Primary school parties / pre-school groups*
- 9. Student events*
- 13. County Education Department (Regarding hire of Southfields Park)*

Table 3: Interment Charges

| INTERMENT | DESCRIPTION | CHARGES FOR 2021/22 | PROPOSED CHARGES FOR 2022/23 |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | £ | £ |
| 1.1 | Of the body of a still-born child, body parts, or of a child who at the time of death had not attained the age of 4 years: Loughborough resident Charnwood resident Non-Charnwood resident | No Charge 142.00 212.00 | No Charge 156.00 234.00 |
| 1.2 | Of the body of a child who at the time of death was aged 4 years but had not attained the age of 16 years: Loughborough resident Charnwood resident Non-Charnwood resident | No Charge 202.00 304.00 | No Charge 222.00 333.00 |
| 1.3 | Of the body of a person who at the time of death was 16 years and over: Resident Charnwood resident (double fees) Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees) Muslim style burial additional charge for frame New Muslim style burial additional charge for wood | 523.00 1,046.00 1,569.00 290.00 165.00 | 575.00 1,150.00 1,725.00 320.00 182.00 |
| 1.4 | Of cremated remains: Resident (under 16 years of age) Loughborough resident (16 years and over) Charnwood resident (double fees) Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees) | No Charge 110.00 220.00 330.00 | No Charge 121.00 242.00 363.00 |
| | Scattering of cremated remains (residents/non resident) | 33.00 | 36.00 |

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| 1.5 | In a vaulted or walled grave: | | |
| | Loughborough resident | 635.00 | 700.00 |
| | Charnwood resident (double fees) | 1,270.00 | 1,400.00 |
| | Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees) | 1,905.00 | 2,100.00 |
| 1.6 | Exhumation of coffined body | 4,095.00 | 4,500.00 |

Table 4: Burial Charges

| EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL | DESCRIPTION | CHARGES FOR 2021/22 | PROPOSED CHARGES FOR 2022/23 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| | | £ | £ |
| 2.1 | Class A Graves: | | |
| | Loughborough resident | 777.00 | 855.00 |
| | Charnwood resident (double fees) | 1,554.00 | 1,710.00 |
| | Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees) | 2,331.00 | 2,565.00 |
| 2.2 | Class C (Children's): | | |
| | Loughborough resident | 213.00 | 234.00 |
| | Charnwood resident (double fees) | 426.00 | 468.00 |
| | Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees) | 639.00 | 702.00 |
| 2.3 | Class D Lawn Section: | | |
| | Loughborough resident | 595.00 | 655.00 |
| | Charnwood resident (double fees) | 1,190.00 | 1,310.00 |
| | Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees) | 1,785.00 | 1,965.00 |
| 2.4 | Class E (Cremated Remains): | | |
| | Loughborough resident | 220.00 | 242.00 |
| | Charnwood resident (double fees) | 440.00 | 484.00 |
| | Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees) | 660.00 | 726.00 |

Table 5: Monuments and Gravestones (including inscriptions)

| MONUMENTS, GRAVESTONES, TABLET & MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| TYPE OF MEMORIAL | DESCRIPTION | CHARGES FOR 2021/22 | PROPOSED CHARGE FOR 2022/23 |
| | | £ | £ |
| 3.1 | A flat stone, footstone, kerbstone, border stone or tablet | 166.00 | 183.00 |
| 3.2 | Headstone | 166.00 | 183.00 |
| 3.3 | Vase/memorial not exceeding 24" in height | 103.00 | 113.00 |
| 3.4 | Splayed Marble base | 67.00 | 74.00 |
| 3.5 | Additional Inscription (after first inscription) | 43.00 | 47.00 |

Table 6: Cemetery – miscellaneous charges

| MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES | | | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| TYPE OF CHARGE | DESCRIPTION | CHARGES 2021/22 | PROPOSED CHARGE FOR 2022/23 |
| | | £ | £ |
| 4.1 | Searches of Burial Registers: Copy of each entry in Burial Register | 40.00 | 44.00 |
| 4.2 | MEMORIAL SEAT WITH PLAQUE: Up to 90 letters Additional plaque (only) | 1,312.00 224.00 | 1,443.00 246.00 |
| 4.3 | MEMORIAL TREE WITH PLAQUE: Up to 80 letters | 370.00 | 407.00 |