

**BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 21ST JULY 2020**

LJ/2020

30 June 2020

REPORT TO TOWN COUNCILLORS

AGENDA ITEM 8 – SEVERN PARK SECURITY

AIM

1. *To approve additional funding for the provision of security on Severn Park.*

BACKGROUND

2. The Town Council set aside £1,500 in the current year budget to allow some locking of the gates on Severn Park.
3. The budget was set in response to calls from residents that live in close proximity to the Park who reported a number of regular instances of anti-social behaviour in the evenings of late spring through to early autumn in 2019. Much of the anti-social behaviour was considered to be as a result of vehicles having uncontrolled access.
4. The Town Council awarded a contract to a company that specialises in security of buildings and land at the end of May 2020. The contract requires the locking of Severn Park's main entrance just after 8:30pm every evening and its opening at weekends (the Town Council staff open the gate at around 7:30 am on weekdays as part of their normal working routine). The cost of the contract is £126 per week.

DISCUSSION/ COMMENT

5. The current budget of £1,500 (Cost Centre 260, Nominal Ledger 4216 – Car Park-Locking gates) will only cover costs for a period of just over 11 weeks i.e. until 16 August 20.
6. It is considered likely that the decent weather and light evenings will continue until the end of September and the service will need to be continued for 7 more weeks than the budget currently can afford (an additional cost of circa £882).
7. Members will need to begin considering the budget for next year. The costs of providing a similar service next year (to cover the period 1 Apr thru' 1 Sep) based on this year's costs is in the region £3,300.
8. The current locking of the gates has received some positive comments from a number of those residents that commented on the anti-social behaviour last year.

FINANCIALS

9. There are no predicted underspends readily identifiable in other budgets at this stage of the year from which a virement of £882 could be made to increase the Parking Enforcement budget. An increase to the budget would need to be made from the general reserve.

10. The closing of the car park on Severn Park in April and May has resulted in an estimated loss of income of £12,000 (based on last year's takings for the same period).

OPTIONS

11. Cease the locking of Severn Car Park from 16th August.

12. Increase the budget (Cost Centre 260, Nominal Ledger 4216 – Car Park- Locking gates) to £3,300

RECOMMENDATION(s)

13. It is recommended that the Town Council RESOLVES:

To increase the budget (Cost Centre 260, Nominal Ledger 4216 – Car Park- Locking gates) to £3,300 to fund additional security of Severn Park.



Lee Jakeman
Town Clerk