



BRIDGNORTH TOWN COUNCIL

15th November 2022

Slipway Permit Scheme - April 2023

I am writing from Bridgnorth Town Council in order to introduce the new Slipway Permit Scheme for 2023 as decided in the Town Council meeting on the 18th October 2022.

0198/2223 **MINUTES**

Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the Events committee on Monday 5th September 2022.

Members had been asked to approve a Slipway Permit Scheme for commercial canoeing companies to use Seven Park.

It was proposed by Councillor A Chetter, seconded by Councillor K Sawbridge, and majority

RESOLVED: *to approve the Slipway Permit Scheme and set an annual fee of £500 to commence in April 2023. Appropriate correspondence to be sent to the commercial companies who currently use the slipway.*

After lengthy discussions, the scheme is being put in place as a way to maintain, regulate and generate revenue for the Slipway. As there is currently no charge for commercial companies to use the slipway, any funding for future repairs would have to come from elsewhere. By introducing the permit scheme, it allows us to directly fund maintenance, upkeep, and repairs as well as monitor usage and safety of activities taking place on the slipway.

As a user of the Severn Park Slipway, we are keen to take into account your feedback on the permit scheme before its introduction in April 2023. I have enclosed a copy for you.

Please do get in contact using the details below if you have any queries regarding the scheme.

Yours sincerely,

Amee Plimmer
Business Administrator

Roslyn Williams

From: Canoe Uk Ltd
Sent: 18 November 2022 13:53
To: Roslyn Williams
Subject: Slipway Permit scheme

Dear Amee,

Thanks for your letter and info on the proposed Slipway Permit scheme in Severn Park for next year.

Just for your records our address is not the one you sent the letter to as that is our accountants address.

We are the only based Bridgnorth Canoe operator and have been running trips from the town since the mid 80's. We have always had a good working relationship within Bridgnorth and bring many people from far and wide to the town on a daily basis in the summer months.

Years ago we did have to pay an access agreement to use the slipway but it was deemed unfair, by the then Town Clerk Kathy as everyone else was using it and we were the only ones paying! From then we had an understanding that we could use the slipway as we were creating a lot of revenue for the Town Council in the way of car parking fees from our clients who parked in severn park for the day even on wet days when no one else would be visiting the town and parking up.

I have done a quick tally up and this summer alone we created well over £4800 in parking fees from our clients parking in Severn park. The parking fee went up this year to £5 a day and I could of saved my clients money and asked them to park on the Job center car park in Severn Street which is considerably cheaper and even free on Sundays. However I actively encourage them to park in Severn Park as this was the understanding we had for the use of the slipway and access. I understand that you need to put a scheme in place but to charge us £500 on top of what we create revenues wise from the parking fees seems very harsh.

As a local small business we want to continue bringing and showing people to our beautiful town and area at attractive affordable prices and we ask you to please consider our point.

Thanks in advance.

Gareth Owen

Canoe Uk Ltd
River Canoe Trips - Pub Stop - Steam Train Return
www.canoeuk.com



Your email address is automatically put in our contacts. We only send one mail shot out every year. Please inform us if you are not happy for this to happen.

Phone call with Mr Beaumont of River Severn Canoes - 28th November 2022

- Understands that maintenance needs to be funded, however believes no maintenance has been undertaken for 20 years.
- Would like some consideration into the amount of money that the Council receive in car parking fees from the canoe companies customers.
- Will ad hoc commercial users also be charged?
- Believes that we cannot say that we won't take any liability for anything that happens on the Slipway - this could just be a wording issue.
- Permit scheme says annual; however most companies only operate for 6-9 months - will the cost be reduced to reflect this?
- They were unable to use the slipway for a large proportion of last year due to a build up of debris by the bridge - would they get a refund in this case?
- The river is owned by the environmental agency and not the canal and river trust.