

From: Michael Payne
Sent: 03 December 2022 20:51
To: Bridgnorth Town Council
Subject: Bridgnorth Regatta

Good Evening

I understand that the Town Clerk had a conversation with Dave Jennings at this year's Remembrance Service and regarding the Rowing Club's use of Severn Park for its annual Regatta. I just wanted to follow up on this conversation with an email confirming our concerns. I would very much welcome the opportunity to have a discussion with you about how things can be improved for next year.

1. **Cost** - The Club was charged a fee of £300 for using the Park for its 2022 Regatta whereas the published tariff for 2022/2023 states that the fee for community organisations is £120. The Rowing Club is a community sports club and is 100% run by volunteers - no one is paid or profits from the Regatta. Any proceeds are re-invested in the sport. Until relatively recently the Town Council allowed the Club free use of the Park on regatta day, donated half of the car parking revenue for that day to the club and did not allow the usual concession holders to trade that day (encouraging people to buy refreshments from the Club instead). I appreciate that the environment for Councils has changed, however the gradual erosion of the position to the one we were faced with this year does not feel fair or reasonable. Some years, the Regatta barely breaks even, and it is run primarily for the furtherance of the sport. We primarily focus our event on giving those new to the sport an introduction to racing with a format that lends itself to this. Please could we discuss the cost for using the park next year and also a refund on this year's fee?
2. **Parking Meters** - There was only one parking meter working on the day of this year's regatta. This caused a lot of disruption and friction with competitors who were late for their races. This was also the major cause of the late running of the Regatta and caused many complaints. It will not be sustainable for the same thing to happen next year. Please could we discuss alternative arrangements to using the parking meters (such as club members charging people on the gate and paying/sharing the proceeds with the Council - bearing in mind that your revenue will have increased on that day due to the Regatta being held)
3. **Some Parking Fees had to be refunded** - We cannot charge some regatta officials to park and had to pay refunds of £140, further increasing the cost of using the park. Please could we agree a process of exempting a limited number of cars from needing to pay for parking on Regatta day, or agree an appropriate reduction/rebate in terms of any fee that is agreed?

The Regatta is the oldest sporting event in the town which brings people to Bridgnorth from all over the country. Many spectators visit and will increase the parking revenue for the Council and hopefully encourage people to return to the town as tourists. Many in Bridgnorth, including the Council will have gained by the Regatta) but the current arrangement does not seem fair to the Rowing Club both financially and in terms of operating the regatta effectively.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns with you so that we can hopefully agree a better arrangement for next year's Regatta.

Kind regards,

Michael Payne