

Swindon Borough Council Diversity Impact Assessment Country Park Implementation of Car Parking Charges

1 What's it about?

Refer to equality duties

What is the proposal? What outcomes/benefits are you hoping to achieve?

Under the Cultural and Community Based Asset Programme it is proposed to implement car parking charges at all of the country parks within the control of Swindon Borough Council. The parks are:

- Lydiard Park
- Coate Water
- Barbury Castle
- Moulden Hill
- Stanton Park

The Cultural and Community Based Asset Programme is tasked with ensuring that the cultural and community based assets owned or managed by Swindon Borough Council work harder for the Council in reducing current subsidies and or providing more and better services from fewer buildings.

The introduction of car parking is seen as a way to reduce the subsidies to the five country parks. It is known that Lydiard ran at a subsidy of £458000 on actual expenditure for the financial year 2014/2015 the other country parks are run as part of an overall budget for green / open spaces so detailing the subsidy by each park cannot be shown.

The expectation is that with the implementation of charges and other schemes at various country parks Swindon Borough Council will limit the current subsidy and help secure the future of the country parks.

This Diversity Impact Assessment covers the introduction of car parking charges and does not deal with any other schemes which will have to develop individual Diversity Impact Assessments

Who's it for?

The country parks within Swindon Borough Council control offer a wide variety of activities and therefore attract a diverse group of visitors with some activities specific to one park i.e. Coate Water and activities in relation to the lake i.e. sailing and angling. It is also recognised that a proportion of the visitors to the parks are not residents to the Borough.

Interest groups will be identified at each park with consultation taking place with these groups and the wider community as a whole.

How will this proposal meet the equality duties?

The proposal will meet the equality duties by:

1. Swindon Borough Council will eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation by setting the charge as a maximum price across all parks with time bands, the option of season tickets and controlled under the same scheme for all parks. Other features to support this will be:
 - a. Making good of car parks that are currently recognised as being of a poor standard or that flood in bad weather.
 - b. The two main parks Coate Water and Lydiard are on good public transport links.

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- c. The charges will be in keeping with similar sites i.e. National Trust & Forestry Commission
 2. To advance equality of opportunity by providing disabled parking bays at all sites.
 3. Foster good relations by
 - a. Keeping park users informed of any proposals and allowing for feedback on the proposal and the charging model during a consultation phase in early 2016.
 - b. Discussing issues that arise over the 1st 6 months of implementation especially with residents that live local to the parks to review the impacts on them.
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What are the barriers to meeting this potential?

The barriers to meeting this potential are:

- That any implementation of parking charges may have an adverse effect on parts of the community that use country parks in relation to their Financial Economic Status.
 - That some individuals out of protest do not park in the designated car parks
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2 Who's using it?

Refer to equality groups

What data/evidence do you have about who is or could be affected (e.g. equality monitoring, customer feedback, current service use, national/regional/local trends)?

There is limited data on who currently uses the country parks, each one will be looked at individually in this section:

Lydiard Park

- There have been two periods of engagement in 2015 in May and November which was more formal engagement meetings. The information gathered at these events show that:
 - May 2015 there were 90 returns completed and these showed us that:
 - There is a fairly even split of age range use across the individuals who responded.
 - We had no one saying that they considered themselves as having a disability.
 - 62% of responders were Female.
 - 97% considered themselves white British.

There could be some explanation for the high proportion of females as the engagement took place in half term and a proportion of responders who were spoken too were on days out with their children. There is also several informal groups of mothers with children under school age who use the park as a meeting place.

- November 2015 two engagement events were held on the Wednesday 17th and Sunday 22nd at the forest café, ?? returns were completed
- There are also several groups or organisations that are known to use the park at present:
 - St Margaret's Church
 - Park run
 - Charteridge
 - Jungle Parc
 - Youth Football

Coate Water

- There is no current use figures or a breakdown of who uses the park.
 - There are also several groups or organisations that are known to use the park at present:
 - Anglers
 - Café operator
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- Miniature Railway Society
- Shin Splints
- Nature Reserve Permit Holders
- Richard Jefferies Museum
- Model Boat club
- Sailing Trust
- Swindon Canoe Club
- Rowing Club

Barbury Castle

- There is no current use figures or a breakdown of who uses the park.
- There are also several groups or organisations that are known to use the park at present:
 - Whitehorse Kite-flyers Club

Stanton Park

- There is no current use figures or a breakdown of who uses the park.
- There are also several groups or organisations that are known to use the park at present:
 - Coleview Angling Club
 - Ron Hoskins – Honey Bee Research

Moulden Hill

- There is no current use figures or a breakdown of who uses the park.
- There are also several groups or organisations that are known to use the park at present:
 - Mouldon Hill Angling Society
 - Swindon & Cricklade Railway

All groups where possible will be contacted to make them aware of the proposal and consultation to allow their views to be expressed.

How can you involve your customers in developing the proposal?

Two engagement events have been held at Lydiard Park in Nov 16, with agreement from a variety responders saw the introduction of parking charges at Lydiard Park as a realistic option as working towards cutting the current subsidy. The considered opinion was that if Swindon Borough Council would consider implementing parking charges at one of its country parks why would it not consider the implementation at all country parks.

There will also be a period of consultation in early 2016 to allow residents of the Borough, user groups and users of the parks to comment on the proposal and the proposed charging model.

Who is missing? Do you need to fill any gaps in your data? (pause DIA if necessary)

3 Impact

Refer to dimensions of equality and equality groups

Show consideration of: age, disability, sex, transgender, marriage/civil partnership, maternity/pregnancy, race, religion/belief, sexual orientation and if appropriate: financial economic status, homelessness, political view

Using the information in parts 1 & 2:

a) Does the proposal create an adverse impact which may affect some groups or individuals? Is it clear what this is? How can this be mitigated or justified?

The council does not consider that the proposal will have an adverse impact on equality groups but may be considered a barrier by some groups based on their financial economic status.

For Lydiard Park and Coate Water there is a concern that due to any charges being implemented that there will be deal of dispersal of parking into the neighbouring residential or other areas.

Options have been investigated how this can be limited by implementation of various parking restrictions. There will be a set timetable for reviewing the impact of any changes to parking within residential areas and to discuss any mitigating actions that can be implemented to limit impact.

Swindon Borough Council's reasonable adjustments for Blue Badge Holders will be that we ensure that there are adequate blue badge spaces close to facilities and access routes that are well maintained and that associated payment machines are accessible for all users.

What can be done to change this impact?

The following pricing model is proposed as a maximum charge:

- Up to 2 hours £2
- Over 2 hours £4
- Season ticket park specific £150 per annum

This will enable park users to spend a period at the park at a small cost for activities such as dog walking etc. or to have an extended day at the park paying a slightly higher charge. Season tickets will also be available for specific parks as well as to cover all parks which work out if you visit a park for 2 times per week for less than 2 hours then the season ticket will work out cheaper per annum.

The 2 larger parks (Coate Water and Lydiard) are both on bus routes served from the Town Centre as shown below:

- Coate Water – 12, 13, 14 & 16.
- Lydiard Park – 1 & 1A.

The smaller parks are not as well served by local transport links with no service close to Barbury Castle or Stanton Park. With Moulden Hill served by the 15 from the Town Centre.

b) Does the proposal create benefit for a particular group? Is it clear what this is? Can you maximise the benefits for other groups?

There is no expected benefit for any particular group.

Does further consultation need to be done? How will assumptions made in this assessment be tested?

Consultation is due to take place on the cost model and extent of the implementation across the country parks in the Borough.

4 So what?

[Link to business planning process](#)

What changes have you made in the course of this DIA?

There have been no changes during the development of this DIA.

What will you do now and what will be included in future planning?

An implementation plan will be developed focussing on the larger parks a, then moving to look at

the smaller parks. This will include any improvements to car parking areas.

When will this be reviewed?

This will be reviewed at the end of the consultation and then at 6 months from implementation to understand the impact on the use of the parks and any effect of dispersment of parking into neighbouring areas.

How will success be measured?

For the record	
Name of person leading this DIA Jim Catton	Date completed 27/01/15
Names of people involved in consideration of impact Rachel Watts, Nick Stephenson	
Name of manager signing DIA Stuart McKellar	Date signed

Diversity Impact Assessment – an inclusive business planning tool

1. What's it about? refer to equality duties

- What is the proposal? What outcomes/benefits are you hoping to achieve
- Who's it for?
- How will this proposal meet the equality duties?
- What are the barriers to meeting this potential?

2. Who's using it? consider all equality groups

- What data/evidence do you have about who is or could be affected? (e.g. equality monitoring, customer feedback, current service use, national/regional/local trends)?
- How can you involve your customers in developing the proposal?
- Who is missing? Do you need to fill any gaps in your data?

3. Impact consider dimensions and equality groups

Using information in parts 1 & 2:

- a) Does the proposal create an adverse impact which may affect some groups or individuals? How can this be mitigated or justified?
> What can be done to change this impact?
- b) Does the proposal create benefit for particular groups or individuals. Is it clear what this is? Can you maximise the benefits for other groups?
 - Does further consultation need to be done? How will assumptions made in this assessment be tested?

4. So what?

- What changes have made in the course of this DIA?
- What will you do now and what will be included in future planning?
- When will this be reviewed?
- How will success be measured?

Considerations

Our equality duties

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
2. Advance equality of opportunity
3. Foster good relations

Equality groups

For the following equality groups: age, disability, sex, transgender, marriage/civil partnership, maternity/pregnancy, race, religion/belief and sexual orientation.

Extended by SBC policy to include: financial economic status, homelessness, political view.

Dimensions of equality

How will the proposal affect Human Rights and life chances of different groups? Consider how the proposal affects

1. Longevity.
2. Physical security.
3. Health.
4. Education.
5. Standard of living.
6. Productive and valued activities.
7. Individual, family and social life.
8. Participation, influence and voice.
9. Identity, expression and self-respect.
10. Legal security.