



FREE PARKING: SATURDAYS

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 14/24

8 APRIL 2024

This report is to ask Members to approve free parking on Saturdays.

NO. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Ventnor finds itself in a dire struggle to survive currently with the challenge of having a major road closure of the A3055 in two sections (Leeson Road/Undercliff Drive), with serious concerns over the viability of the Newport Road - an area called the Graben prone to ground movement - with the only other route into Ventnor being via Whitwell, which is unsuitable for large vehicles and not designed for heavy traffic usage.
- b) All Ventnorians will testify to the town being much quieter since the Leeson Road closure due to the landslide, and businesses are struggling to survive. We all know that shops, cafes, clubs, pubs, and restaurants, along with the scenery this location offers attract visitors to Ventnor and makes this community special. In these challenging times, Ventnor Town Council would like to offer a helping hand to businesses and visitors alike by offering FREE car parking from 10am until 4pm on Saturdays in Dudley Road, Market Street and Pound Lane car parks, until the opening of Leeson Road or another alternative viable route into Ventnor is found and open to transport.
- c) The approximate cost of this measure will be £2,518 in total for one year and the council will off-set this by the most appropriate way and means possible, so as not to negatively impact on the community provision we currently provide.
- d) Ventnor Town Council also call upon the Isle of Wight Council to follow our example and offer Free Car Parking on Saturdays in the Central Car Park that they control.

2) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to approve free parking on Saturdays from 10am until 4pm with immediate effect, for the car parks Dudley Road, Market Street and Pound Lane, at a cost in the region of £2,518 for one year.