

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting the Decision

Performance Policy and Development Manager

Officer Making the Decision

Head of Contract: Waste, Leisure and Environment

Recommendation

That the proposed Cemeteries and Recreational fees and charges as detailed in Appendix A are implemented from 1st April 2024.

Reasons

It is customary for the Head of Contracts to review the fees and charges within the Department. The revised charges have been established through careful consideration and are intended to help ensure financial income targets can be achieved in 2024/25.

Authority for Decision

Item 1 of the delegations to Heads of Service in section 8.3 of the Constitution gives authority to undertake the periodic review of fees and charges raised within their service areas and falling within the scope of the Council's Income and Charging Policy Framework. The lead members for Open Spaces & Leisure and Finance and Internal Support Services have also been consulted as part of the review process.

Decision and Date

Approved 05/03/24



Matthew Bradford
Head of Contracts (Leisure, Waste and Environment)

Background

The Authority for approving fees and charges has been delegated to the Head of Contracts. The proposed fees and charges detailed in the report have been put forward having taken into consideration the Council's Income and Charging Policy.

The income the Council generates from hiring its facilities is not enough to offset the cost of their maintenance.

Considering the above fact, it was agreed that Charnwood Borough Council would uplift the fees and charges for Open Spaces in line with the annual Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation (3.8%). Interment (burial) charges will be increased by 10% to partially offset the additional maintenance costs of the new Nanpantan Road Cemetery. This will ensure that the Council will continue to be able to provide the same quality of service for all users.

Financial Implications

The additional income expected as a result of the price increase is estimated to be in the region of £25,000 and will be used to offset part of the maintenance cost of the sites. Despite the price increases, Charnwood Borough Council still provides a good value for money service in line with its Open Spaces Strategy.

Proposed Charges

The following recreational and cemetery charges are proposed for implementation from the 1st April 2024.

The charges for Open Spaces have been increased by 4% which is in line with the current (January 2024) RPI. The Head of Finance has advised that RPI is running at 3.8%. With roundings there may be slight variations from this figure.

Appendix A details the associated revised fees and charges in Tables 1 – 6:

Table 1: Non-standard recreational and amenity charges
Table 2: Hiring of open spaces
Table 3: Interment charges
Table 4: Burial charges
Table 5: Monuments and gravestones (including inscriptions)
Table 6: Cemetery – miscellaneous charges

Risk Management

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
Resistance to price increases by clubs/customers	Possible	Moderate	Benchmarking with other local providers has been undertaken and the proposed charges reflect this local variance.

Key Decision

No

Background Papers

No

APPENDIX A:

Non-Standard Recreational and Amenity Charges 2024/25

The following recreational charges are peculiar to Charnwood Borough Council
The following charges are suggested for implementation from 1st April 2024

Table 1: Non-Standard Recreational and Amenity Charges

Amenity	Description	2023/24	2024/25
Fishing	Day Fishing at Charnwood Water		
	Adults (day ticket) – per rod	7.60	8.00
	Concessionary (day ticket) – per rod	3.80	4.00
	Adult (Season ticket)	76.00	80.00
	Concessionary (Season ticket)	38.00	40.00
Rounders	Per occasion – Adult	56.00	58.00
	Per occasion – Concessionary	28.00	29.00
Golf	Use of Shelthorpe Golf course inclusive of club and putter hire		
	Winter Greens Oct – Mar inclusive		
	Adult (per 18 holes)	10.00	10.40
	Concessionary (per 18 holes)	5.00	5.20
	Adults (per 9 holes)	7.80	8.20
	Concessionary (per 9 holes)	3.90	4.10
	School parties (per person per 9 holes)	3.40	3.50
	Summer Greens Apr – Sept inclusive		
	Adults (per 18 holes)	11.00	11.40
	Concessionary (per 18 holes)	5.50	5.70
	Adults (per 9 holes)	8.60	9.00
	Concessionary (per 9 holes)	4.30	4.50
	School parties (per person per 9 holes)	3.40	3.50
	Adult season ticket	192.00	200.00
	Concessionary season ticket	96.00	100.00
	Miscellaneous		
Lost or damaged putter	34.00	35.40	
Lost or damaged club	48.00	50.00	
Golf ball sale (higher quality)	4.00	4.20	
Golf ball sale (lower quality)	3.00	3.10	
Pack of tees (10 pack)	1.80	1.90	

Amenity	Description		
Allotments	Ploughing, rotavating, scuffing or flailing of allotments		
* See Below	Per operation / per plot	POR	POR
Allotment rent 2023/24	Rent of allotments on permanent sites.	2023/24	2024/25
	Per 100 sq. yds per annum	26.20	29.40
	Rent of allotments on temporary sites		
	Per 100 sq. yds per annum	21.00	23.50
Allotment rent 2024/25	NB. Allotment holders should receive 12 months notification of rent increases. The rental for 2025/26 is also shown at 5%		
	Rent of allotments on permanent sites.	2024/25	2025/26
	Per 100 sq. yds per annum	29.40	30.90
	Rent of allotments on temporary sites		
	Per 100 sq. yds per annum	23.50	24.70

* Due to the wide variations in plot size, accessibility and machinery needed, a single price is impractical. Individual prices will be given on request.

Amenity	Description	2023/24	2024/25
Cricket	Use of Pitch and Changing Facilities		
	Adult	72.80	75.80
	Concessionary	36.40	37.90
	Use of Pitch only		
	Adult	69.00	71.80
	Concessionary	34.50	35.90
Football	Use of Pitch and Changing Facilities		
	Adult	72.80	75.80
	Junior	36.40	37.90
	Use of Pitch only		
	Adult	69.00	71.80
	Junior	34.50	35.90
	Training sessions		
	Adult	36.00	37.40
	Juniors	18.00	18.70

Rugby	Use of Pitch and Changing Facilities		
	Adult	72.80	75.80
	Junior	36.40	37.90
	Use of Pitch only		
	Adult	69.00	71.80
	Junior	34.50	35.90
Tennis	Use of Court per Hour		
	Adult	9.60	6.00
	Concessionary	4.80	3.00
Netball	Use of Court per Hour		
	Adult	16.00	16.60
	Concessionary	8.00	8.30
Bowls	Use of Court per Hour		
	Adult	6.50	6.80
	Concessionary	3.25	3.40
Model Yacht Club Use of Charnwood Water	Annual fee by agreement per person	42.50	44.00

It was recognised in 2016 that the pricing structure for the hiring of Open Spaces needed reviewing. The aim was to develop a clear, consistent, transparent, and fair structure that could be easily followed and explained to the public.

The new structure is based on the size of the event as well as the nature and scope of the organiser.

Table 2: Hiring of Open Spaces

Charges 2024 / 2025				
	Standard Event Charge	Bigger Event Enhanced Rate	Concession @ 33%	Charge Waived
Large Scale Event Areas (up to 2000 people daily estimated)	£900.00	Price on application	£300.00	On application to Head of service
Southfields Park				
Queens Park				
Medium Scale Event Areas (up to 750 people daily estimated)	£630.00	£890.00	£210.00	On application to Head of service
Charnwood Water				
Morley Quarry				
The Outwoods				
Stonebow Washlands				
Small Scale Event Areas (up to 150 people daily estimated)	£186.00	Not Applicable	£62.00	On application to Head of service
Radmoor Road				
Shelthorpe Open Space				
Jubilee Park				
Gorse Covert				
Stapleford Park				
Garendon Green				
Booth Wood				
Pignut Spinney				
Sidings Park				
Forest Road Green Belt				

Proposed Categories

1. Charge Waived. Exemption On Application (EOA) to Head of Service

Principally targeted at smaller scale community groups and organisations, this could also apply to internal CBC projects promoting the Council's values.

Specifically, small scale events run by local groups and organisations which are not formally constituted as a charity, Community Interest Company (CIC), social enterprise or other similar body or linked to a larger organisation.

For example, these might include local "Friends of park" groups but not local branches of larger national organisations.

This new category relates to hire groups 11 and 2 from the previous structure:

- 11. Residents only events (supported by Residents, associations or groups)*
- 2. Borough festivals and promotions*

2. Concessionary Charge

This is principally targeted at charities and formally constituted Not for Profit Organisations.

Charities, social enterprises or other such organisations with a constitution or articles of association which include appropriate non distribution of profit and dissolution clauses.

This will be set at 33% of the standard rate, which for small scale events in smaller areas, is **broadly similar to the charge from last year**. Additionally, individual exemptions could be made by the Head of Service where the event is in line with the Council's Corporate Plan or Open Spaces' Strategy.

This category relates to hire groups 6 and 7 from the previous structure:

- 6. Charity events*
- 7. Charity fund raising*

3. Standard Charge

Principally targeted at private events where an open space is hired for a private event and is not open to the general public, and **Commercial Organisations** running events of varying sizes on a commercial or profit-making basis. These might include fun fairs and rides, trade fairs, corporate events and other similar themed events.

This category relates to hire groups 8, 10 and 12 from the previous structure:

- 8. Regulated car boot sales (Nanpantan Sports Ground and Derby Road Playing Fields only)*
- 10. Private use (Wedding photographs)*
- 12. Commercial bodies*

In the case of a large event with exclusive access, then this should be treated / charged for as a commercial event. Where a bigger event is planned with estimated attendance over and above the usual capacity of a medium or large site, an additional charge for bigger events may apply.

Potential exemption (by Head of Service) on application

There are a small number of events for which in most instances, charges may be waived. It is important to have a process in place to ensure the exemption is consistently applied.

This relates to category 3 under the existing structure:

- 3. Worship and religious groups*

Other Categories

There are a number of organisations which currently are exempt that would also need to be considered on a case by case basis by application to the Head of Service. This is an important safeguard when dealing with applications for example by fringe political organisations.

This refers specifically to hire groups 4 and 5 of the existing structure:

- 4. Political events*
- 5. Political fund raising*

Finally, there are some categories which can be covered under the other exemptions already described depending on how the organisation is constituted and the purpose of the event.

This relates to the existing groups 1, 9, and 13 which is subject to a separately identified charge.

- 1. Primary school parties / pre-school groups*
- 9. Student events*
- 13. County Education Department (Regarding hire of Southfields Park)*

Table 3: Interment Charges

INTERMENT	DESCRIPTION	CHARGES FOR 2023/24	PROPOSED CHARGES FOR 2024/25
		£	£
1.1	Of the body of a still-born child, body parts, or of a child who at the time of death had not attained the age of 4 years: Loughborough resident Charnwood resident Non-Charnwood resident	No Charge 174.00 261.00	No Charge 190.00 285.00
1.2	Of the body of a child who at the time of death was aged 4 years but had not attained the age of 16 years: Loughborough resident Charnwood resident Non-Charnwood resident	No Charge 248.00 372.00	No Charge 272.00 408.00
1.3	Of the body of a person who at the time of death was 16 years and over: Resident Charnwood resident (double fees) Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees) Muslim style burial additional charge for frame New Muslim style burial additional charge for wood	644.00 1,288.00 1,932.00 358.00 204.00	708.00 1,416.00 2,124.00 394.00 224.00
1.4	Of cremated remains: Resident (under 16 years of age) Loughborough resident (16 years and over) Charnwood resident (double fees) Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees)	No Charge 135.00 270.00 405.00	No Charge 148.00 296.00 444.00
	Scattering of cremated remains (residents/non resident)	40.00	44.00

1.5	In a vaulted or walled grave:		
	Loughborough resident	784.00	862.00
	Charnwood resident (double fees)	1,568.00	1,724.00
	Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees)	2,352.00	2,586.00
1.6	Exhumation of coffined body	5,040.00	5,544.00

Table 4: Burial Charges

EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION	CHARGES FOR 2023/24	PROPOSED CHARGES FOR 2024/25
		£	£
2.1	Class A Graves:		
	Loughborough resident	957.00	1,050.00
	Charnwood resident (double fees)	1,914.00	2,100.00
	Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees)	2,871.00	3,150.00
2.2	Class C (Children's):		
	Loughborough resident	262.00	288.00
	Charnwood resident (double fees)	524.00	576.00
	Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees)	786.00	864.00
2.3	Class D Lawn Section:		
	Loughborough resident	733.00	806.00
	Charnwood resident (double fees)	1,466.00	1,612.00
	Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees)	2,199.00	2,418.00
2.4	Class E (Cremated Remains):		
	Loughborough resident	271.00	298.00
	Charnwood resident (double fees)	542.00	596.00
	Non-Charnwood resident (treble fees)	813.00	894.00

Table 5: Monuments and Gravestones (including inscriptions)

MONUMENTS, GRAVESTONES, TABLET & MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS			
TYPE OF MEMORIAL	DESCRIPTION	CHARGES FOR 2023/24	PROPOSED CHARGE FOR 2024/25
		£	£
3.1	A flat stone, footstone, kerbstone, border stone or tablet	205.00	225.00
3.2	Headstone	205.00	225.00
3.3	Vase/memorial not exceeding 24" in height	126.00	138.00
3.4	Splayed Marble base	83.00	91.00
3.5	Additional Inscription (after first inscription)	52.50	58.00

Table 6: Cemetery – miscellaneous charges

MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES			
TYPE OF CHARGE	DESCRIPTION	CHARGES 2023/24	PROPOSED CHARGE FOR 2024/25
		£	£
4.1	Searches of Burial Registers: Copy of each entry in Burial Register	50.00	55.00
4.2	MEMORIAL SEAT WITH PLAQUE: Up to 90 letters Additional plaque (only)	1,616.00 275.00	1,777.00 302.00
4.3	MEMORIAL TREE WITH PLAQUE: Up to 80 letters	455.00	500.00
4.4	Admin fee for grave transfers	72.00	79.00