

## **Appendix 2 - LEISURE AND GREEN SPACES, OVERVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES, 2016-17**

Leisure and Green Spaces reviews fees and charges for its services annually and seeks approval of recommended changes early in the calendar year to allow adequate time to prepare for implementation in spring. In recommending the appropriate fees and charges, consideration is given to:

- Current levels of business and associated income
- Customer feedback
- The cost of implementing any changes
- Changes in costs of managing and delivering each service
- Likely impact of any price increase in demand for each service
- Proposed changes in core revenue support to the service.

In most cases, proposed fees and charges have been increased by at least the rate of inflation and are applied for the 2016/17 financial year, there are however several exceptions:

- There is a proposal to introduce new charges for Wedding Packages in Clifton Park. This service has been under development for several months in response to growing demand following the relocation of Wedding Ceremonies from the Town Hall to Clifton Park Museum. Rates charges by other venues in the area have been reviewed, and it is believed that the proposed charges at Clifton Park will be competitive, whilst ensuring that all necessary costs are covered. Approval is sought to set such charges not only for 2016/17, but also for 2017/18. This is because bookings for weddings may be received many months in advance.
- Changes to the car parking tariff at Clifton Park are proposed based on the fact that demand rises very steeply over the summer holiday period. A new higher summer rate would apply from 16<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> September, and would be in line with other town centre car park charges at that time of year. Car park charges for the remainder of the year would only increase by a few pence per hour.
- Allotment rents have customarily been set one year in advance. This allows letters to be sent to tenants giving them 12 months' notice of any increase. Therefore, the rents recommended by this report are for 2017-18. Of the services referred to here, only allotments provision is statutory; Section 10 of the Allotments Act 1950 states that allotment rents should be "*such rent as a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for the land if let for such use on the terms (other than terms as to rent on which it is in fact let*".

### **Options considered**

In making the recommendations for the revision of fees and charges, in each case consideration has been given to the following options:

- Discontinuation of the charge, for example where the level of business has fallen to the point where the cost of collecting charges exceeds the income to be had.
- Reducing or freezing charges, for example where an increase is likely to make the offer uncompetitive and lead to a loss of business
- An small percentage increase, where this reflects increasing costs and, in some cases, an opportunity to generate sufficient income to gradually reduce net running costs
- An increase well above the rate of inflation, for example where demand for a service is very high, and comparison with similar offers elsewhere suggests charges are lower than average
- Introduction of a new charge, either where a new service has been introduced, or customer feedback suggests the need for a change in the way we charge for a service.

The schedules of fees and charges set out in Appendices 2a, 2b, and 2c reflect options from the list above which managers consider would be best for the continued provision of affordable, attractive and financially sustainable services to our customers

### **General terms and conditions**

Charges are for non-profit making bodies based in the borough of Rotherham and individuals only. Organisations may apply for concessionary use subject to completion of an application form which includes details of the criteria that are used in considering such applications.

- Commercial fees and charges where stated on application.
- All charges will be rounded up to the full hour (except where stated).
- All charges are exclusive of VAT except where indicated (\*) where price includes VAT.
- All charges are subject to any changes in VAT Regulations.

Individuals eligible for the concessionary rate are as follows:

- \* Individuals who are holders of Rothercard (for individual services – e.g. tickets, equipment hire, etc., not on behalf of an organisation), juniors (under 16 years of age), persons aged 60 years and above.
- \* Carers/Personal Assistants accompanying people with special needs to sports facilities/activities will be entitled to free admission (check with facility for details of eligibility).