



# BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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Mr. Nat Slade, Group Head of Technical Services  
Arun District Council  
Civic Centre  
Maltravers Road  
Littlehampton  
BN17 5LF

25<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear Mr. Slade,

## **Bognor Regis Town Council's Formal Response to the ADC Draft Proposals for changes to the Two-Hour Free Parking Scheme in Bognor Regis**

Following receipt from Arun District Council of the amended proposals for changes to be made to the two-hour free parking scheme in Bognor Regis, this matter was considered by Members of the Policy and Resources Committee at an Extraordinary Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

Members discussed the proposed changes in some detail and a reflection of the discussion held is detailed below.

The importance of a system that was amenable to all members of the community was discussed with the suggestion of a part app, part disc scheme to suit everyone's needs.

When the 2 Hour Free Parking Scheme was initiated, back in 2012, it was to encourage people back into the Town Centre, which Members felt was more relevant than ever with 3 high street banks recently announcing closures and Wilko entering administration. A Member stated that, nevertheless, Bognor Regis had fared well in relation to shop occupancy rates when compared to similar seaside towns, which he believed was in no small way because of the parking disc scheme.

Discussions included the need for Bognor Regis Town Council to reaffirm their commitment to the disc, and a commitment to working in partnership with both the Bognor Regis BID and ADC. A 4-year agreement would be preferable to 2-years, as this would give a degree of certainty to the BID in knowing what income might be generated from the scheme, for the Town.

Those present agreed that it was important for businesses to continue selling the discs and regarded the suggestion by ADC that cash transactions would not

be allowed as absurd. In regard to ADC's proposal to sell the discs from Bognor Regis Town Hall, instead of via businesses in the Town, it was pointed out that ADC do not open the Town Hall until 11am on Wednesdays, close it at 4pm during the week, and do not open the building during the weekend.

A perceived lack of directional signage to car parks, and the matter of electronic payment at on-street parking meters, was also raised and it was suggested that these could be topics for discussion if a partnership Working Party were set up.

Having considered the proposals currently being put forward, Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to **DISAGREE** to enter into the new proposed two-year agreement, based on the proposals for changes to the two-hour free parking scheme in Bognor Regis received from Arun District Council, including continued Bognor Regis Town Council financial contributions at current levels of £21,000 per annum.

Following a proposal from the Chairman, it was further unanimously **RESOLVED** as follows: -

- that Bognor Regis Town Council reject the Officer's report received from Arun District Council and request that it is completely withdrawn
- to reaffirm the Town Council's support of the current disc system and working partnership together with the BID and Arun and discs to be distributed by the businesses in the Town
- to call upon Arun to extend the current scheme for four further years on precisely the same basis it is at present. However, to possibly include an app system being run in parallel
- to work with ADC and the BID to set up a Working Party to consider options for the future, with Officers to be present only as note-takers
- that Bognor Regis Town Council rejects any consideration of an app only system.

We trust that the Town Council's response will be presented along with BR BID's formal reply to Elected Members of the Arun District Council's Environment Committee when they consider the proposals for change to the scheme at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023. It would be appreciated if you could provide me a copy of the final report that will go to the meeting, once this is available please and I look forward to receiving this shortly.

Yours sincerely



Glenna Frost  
Town Clerk