

Lobster Pot (Portland Bill) Ltd

Portland Bill, Portland
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Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
Council Offices
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To Councillor Ray Bryan

We are writing to yourselves as we have been advise by Elizabeth Dawson, the parking services manager, that our issue is beyond her remit and needs to be dealt with at committee level.

I enclose a copy of a letter that was written to the council in 2007 from ourselves outlining the issues we face at Portland Bill. Subsequently there has been an un written rule, that the Nothe Fort car park and Portland Bill have been treated equally until the last round of car parking charges published in 2023.

Currently, the parking charge at the Nothe is £1.50 for 2 hours against Portland Bill at £4.50, a huge difference. These large differences also apply to the winter rates leaving visitors at Portland Bill at a disadvantage. Moreover, in line with most other Weymouth and Portland Car Parks there is no charge between 6pm and 8 am unless you're at Portland Bill or Chesil Beach where standard charges apply 24 hours a day. Facing large increases in cost, we tried opening 2 evenings a week to increase turnover, however, the car parking charges killed it stone dead. If we were in Weymouth parking would be free. Portland Bill has no bus service other than the summertime fix charge tourist bus and visitors rely totally on the car park as the nearest car park to Portland Bill is a mile and a half walk. It appears to us that the tariffs are not being fairly applied and visitors to Portland Bill are treated differently to other areas of the borough. I find it difficult to understand the current difference between car parking at the Nothe and every other car park in the area.

We are experiencing a large increase in verbal abuse from customers who rail at us over the charges and to reduce costs they put 1 hour parking on their cars, and expect us to turn around a meal in that given period during the summer season.

We understand the council are facing increased financial pressures along with every local business, but we do not believe the current charges at Portland Bill are either fairly or evenly applied.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Kearns
Enc.