

## REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

AGENDA ITEM 8.7 To review the need for parking Charges to be introduced at the IROS

1. Charging for parking at Pickmere Lake by the Pickmere Parish Council could have several potential benefits, especially given the pressures and demands on local resources. Here are some reasons why the Council might consider introducing parking fees:

### 1.1 Revenue Generation for Maintenance

Introducing parking charges could help reinvest funds into maintaining and improving the lake and its surrounding areas. This might include:

Funding Rangers to deal with BBQs, blocking of emergency access on the council's private land and other antisocial (intoxication) and criminal behaviours. The Council is in discussions with CEC to obtain a Public Space Protection Order. Once in place enforcement Officers will be required.

Repairing paths, benches, and other facilities

Managing litter and waste disposal

Ensuring the safety of visitors and residents (Life-saving equipment had been suggested by both the Police and Fire and rescue service)

### 1.2. Managing Overcrowding

During peak times, Pickmere Lake can attract a large number of visitors. The council could help regulate the number of visitors by charging for parking, ensuring the area does not become overcrowded. Current overcrowding leads to environmental damage, littering, and degradation of natural spaces as exemplified by the bank erosion caused by over-use.

### 1.3. Environmental Protection

Parking fees, along with the new changes in parking restrictions being proposed by Cheshire East Council, could discourage excessive car traffic in the area, encouraging alternative, eco-friendly forms of transport like cycling or public transportation. Less traffic means less pollution, less antisocial parking and less disturbance to our residents, the local environment and the wildlife around the lake.

### 1.4. Infrastructure Improvement

Parking fees could be used to fund the creation or improvement of necessary infrastructure such as:

Designated parking lots

Better signage

Janitor for toilet facilities

Moving the Public footpath to a more convenient position

### 1.5. Local Residents' Quality of Life

Unregulated parking currently leads to cars spilling into nearby residential areas which negatively affects the lives of our residents. Parking fees and the CEC enhanced parking restrictions, would help to ensure that visitors park in designated areas, reducing the strain on local roads, ensuring the

village remains peaceful for those who live here and keeping access to the village for emergency vehicles.

#### 1.6. Ensuring Fair Use

Parking charges may deter individuals who do not intend to respect the space or abide by local rules. When a fee is introduced, visitors may be more likely to treat the area respectfully, as they have invested in their visit.

#### 1.7. Tourism and Visitor Management

If the lake is a popular destination, parking charges will help manage tourism sustainably. The funds could be used for managing visitor expectations, or even creating more parking spaces if needed.

In short, a parking fee at Pickmere Lake could be seen as a practical solution to balancing public access with environmental protection and community well-being.

### **2. Proposed Action**

2.1 Recommend that the council restarts negotiations with Parking companies in order to generate a revenue stream to employ enforcement officers and improve and Maintain the IROS

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Options be investigated to bring to council so as parking Charges will be in place for the start of the 2025 season.

**Ewan Campbell**

**Chair of Pickmere Parish Council**