



NORTHWOOD HOUSE CHARITABLE TRUST

ROTUNDA CAR PARK CHARGES

When the Trustees took control of Northwood House and Park just over a year ago we decided to manage the Rotunda car park area and access to make it available for visitors to the House and Park. At that time the whole area was being used by people who paid nothing and often parked for several days, occupying all the parking spaces as well as the access road which made access difficult for emergency vehicles.

Having agreed that both the Rotunda and Park Road car parks would be managed by Euro Car Parks, the Rotunda car park and access road required yellow and white lining, before which considerable debris accumulated over many years and drain clearance had to be carried out. The cost to the Trust of this work was over £1400, although all the messy preparation work was done by volunteers.

Drivers – bowlers, visitors, dog walkers – have all appreciated parking spaces being available in this car park and have enjoyed the first hour of parking being free since September 2010.

One year on, Trustees have reviewed the operation of the Rotunda car park and especially maintenance issues.

Lack of tree maintenance work by Isle of Wight Council has resulted in trees pushing against the retaining wall, and the tarmac surface is in poor condition. After gaining permission, the trees have been cut down and the wall is now being monitored. With more frequent traffic movements in this short-term car park the surface is breaking up and the Trust must find the money and plan to carry out expensive repairs.

The Rotunda car park generates a very small amount of money and I have talked to members of the Bowling Club in the Park and regular users of the Community Hall who are some of the biggest contributors because they stay for more than an hour. I have also spoken to people walking in the Park. They understand that the Trust now needs to introduce a charge for the first hour in an attempt to produce more income, all of which will be spent on maintenance of this parking area.

Arguably the most frequent users of this car park are the many people who enjoy coming to walk their dogs in the Park. Because their visits tend to be short they currently pay nothing at all towards the running costs of the Trust, which include providing bins for dog dirt (emptying the bins has been funded for one year by Cowes Town Council). We think it is only fair that all users of the Rotunda car park should make at least some contribution.

The Trustees have agreed that, with effect from Monday 30 January 2012, the first hour's parking in the Rotunda car park will be charged at 50 pence. All other charges will remain unchanged.

Suitable information notices will be put in place. The area will continue to be monitored by EuroCarParks staff.

I hope all drivers will accept this small charge. It will not cover all maintenance costs, but it will reduce the amount of money which the Trust would have to divert from other areas of expenditure relating to both the House and the Park, the care and preservation of which is the prime purpose of the Charitable Trust. Charges in the Park Road car park will remain unchanged and 5 or 7 day quarterly and annual permits are available from EuroCarParks on 0207 563 3000 or enquiries@eurocarparks.com.

**Ann Thwaites
Chairman**

