

**A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE (ESTIMATES)  
HELD ON MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2021 AT 7.00PM VIA ZOOM**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Ms Southcombe (Chairman), Allen, Biscoe, Mrs Callen, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, Ellis, Mainwaring-Evans, Mrs Neale, Wells and Wilkins.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Tamblyn.

Also in attendance: Roger Gazzard - Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer  
Richard Budge - Parks and Amenities Manager  
Joanne Trevelyan – Finance Officer  
Nikki Santolamazza – PA to Town Clerk

Three members of the public: Mr Caruana, Mr Mundy and Ms Bishop-Stephens.

**312 MEMBERSHIP OF PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

It was reported that at the 7 December 2020 Council meeting, Councillor Wilkins was co-opted onto the City Council and appointed as a member of the Parks and Amenities Committee. Councillor Wilkins was welcomed to the meeting. One vacancy remained on this Committee.

**313 DISCLOSURE OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declaration of interest was reported: Item 6 Tremorvah Playing Field (Minute 316). During discussion of this item, Councillor Wells declared an interest in the above item as a Director of Young People Cornwall.

**314 OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA - VERBAL QUESTIONS**

Mr Caruana said the Committee was aware of Tremorvah Play Park problems since the installation of equipment. He asked, had any Council member asked the users of Tremorvah Play Park, specifically the parents of primary school age children, their views on mixing one piece of teenage equipment (Saturn Carousel) with that aimed at younger children due to the foul language experienced? He said he taken it upon himself to speak with various mothers who said they were baffled as to why it happened and many of them stopped their children from using the area when teenagers were there because of their foul language. If so, what were their views? In response, the Chairman said she would leave consideration of this matter to Item 6 Tremorvah Playing Field (Minute 316). Mr Caruana commented he had previously written to City Councillors about what he had seen.

**315 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 November 2020, having been before Council on 7 December 2020, were signed as a correct record.

**316 TREMORVAH PLAYING FIELD**

Appendix A

Council, at its meeting held on 7 December 2020, requested the Parks and Amenities Manager to continue monitoring the play equipment, investigate various costs related to moving equipment, and report back to Council in the Spring 2021 (Council Minute 299). The Parks and Amenities Manager reported to the Committee as follows. Following the Council meeting he had requested some costings and had received a quotation of £19,339 + VAT from the installer, to relocate the Saturn Carousel equipment, referred to in Minute 314 above), to another part of Tremorvah Playing Field, or another area.

During discussion, a number of points were raised by Members, including:

- i. Boscawen Park Play Park might be a suitable location, with equipment serving a wide age group and plans to extend the playpark in the future (as part of the Towns Fund: Boscawen Park Project).

- ii. The potential cost of relocation and the availability of funding was queried.
- iii. Council had requested (in December) Tremorvah Play Park be monitored and an update was requested.
- iv. Councillor Mrs Neale stated that, in response to the question raised by the member of the public (Minute 314), she had not sought any views.
- v. It was commented while the views of one member of the public had been heard, the views of other people had not been heard by the Committee – Council had agreed the Parks and Amenities Manager seek the views of residents. Due to Covid-19 it was considered consultation was difficult at the present time.
- vi. General agreement was expressed that, in the current circumstances, it was prudent to immobilise the item of equipment.
- vii. It was again suggested the Council needed to understand the pressures teenagers were facing, particularly in the current (third) lockdown. Further, it should identify resources to use in the identification of provision for the support of, and engagement with, young people in the local community, including working with Young People Cornwall.
- viii. The Chairman asked the Committee to consider suspending Standing Orders to enable the member of the public who asked a question earlier in the meeting, to speak on this item. This was not supported.

The Parks and Amenities Manager responded to the points raised as follows:

- a. The equipment could be disabled (as soon as the following day) by the removal of the rope swings and seats, hopefully preventing use and alleviating some noise experience by local residents. However, this action may not eradicate other problems which had been identified. He suggested the equipment be left 'in situ' for the present time, once immobilised.
- b. He agreed undertaking consultation with residents, schools and users in the local community was not appropriate at the present time. He stressed the importance of engaging with users on any replacement equipment.
- c. He clarified the cost of replacing the safety surfacing was about £14,040. The existing surface could not be cut out, moved or re-used.
- d. The cost of any replacement equipment could not be quantified at the current time until it was clear what equipment was needed.
- e. All the three playparks at Boscawen Park, Newbridge Lane and Tremorvah had equipment covering a range of ages playing together.
- f. Tremorvah (& Redannick) Play Parks had been funded by a mixture of Section 106 planning agreement funds, money raised in fund raising events by friend's groups and the Council's Precept. There was currently a small deficit in the Play Equipment budget which was insufficient to pay for any relocation. Following consultation, the Council would be able to consider funding, as appropriate.

The Town Clerk reminded the Committee the Towns Fund Board had identified Boscawen Park Playpark for possible extension, so some funding might be available as part of a future project.

It was moved by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, and

**RECOMMENDED** that:

- (1) The Parks and Amenities Manager (a) immobilise the Saturn Carousel equipment to prevent further use, for the present time; and (b) undertake appropriate consultation at a suitable time.
- (2) The Town Clerk be requested to engage with Young People Cornwall and any other relevant services to undertake work with young people in the neighbourhood of Tremorvah Playing Field, focussing on the pressures they currently experienced.

Further, Members generally agreed the equipment should be immobilised as soon as possible. Following a message received in the Zoom 'Chat' box from Ms Helen Bishops-Stephens, copies of responses to the previous consultation(s) by the Friends of Tremorvah, would be available to Members on request from the Parks and Amenities Manager.

It was then moved by Councillor Wells, seconded by the Chairman, and

**RESOLVED** that pursuant to Standing Order 16(b) – Matters of Urgency, due to timescale and the need to immobilize the Saturn Carousel equipment on 12 January 2021, this matter was considered to be a Matter of Urgency.

During discussion of this item, Councillor Wells declared an interest in the above item as a Director of Young People Cornwall. See Minute 313 above.

**317 PROPOSED CHANGING PLACES TOILET AT GREEN STREET**

This item was requested by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 23 November 2020 (F&GPC Minute 272). The Town Clerk reported this matter had been considered by the Committee's Public Conveniences Working Group and two possible designs had been considered. In 2022 funding for such a scheme might be available from the Towns Fund Board. He recommended the Working Group be requested to identify an appropriate design and the scheme be progressed with a view to securing appropriate planning and building control approval from the Local Planning Authority. Potential funding from either the Towns Fund Board, or the City Council could then be reviewed. This recommendation was generally supported by the Committee including a suggestion to contact First Bus, who operated the neighbouring bus station, regarding potential support. He also noted, following two recent resignations, two replacement members of this Group were required.

It was moved by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Allen, and

**RECOMMENDED** that, the Town Clerk be requested to expedite the planned upgrade of the Green Street Public Conveniences, using available funding streams including the First Bus, Towns Fund Board and Truro City Council.

**318 THE POTENTIAL FOR CHARGED MOTORHOME PARKING AT BOSCAWEN PARK**

Appendix B

This item had been requested by the Deputy Mayor. At its meeting on 7 September 2020 the Committee agreed the establishment of an overnight mobile home facility at Boscawen Park be considered by the Towns Fund Board Boscawen Park Project Group (Minute 152 refers). A report was drafted for consideration by the Group and a copy of that report was considered by this Committee. The Parks and Amenities Manager thanked the Administrative Assistant for her in-depth report. He commented he had met the Deputy Mayor for a brief discussion on the suitability of Boscawen Park for such a facility earlier on in the pandemic. It was clear the Park was very popular to a variety of users and the car park was very busy. He highlighted the recommendations set out on page 4 of the report.

During discussion, Members generally commended the report and its recommendations. It was also suggested an area of land at Newham, currently the responsibility of Truro Harbour Master, might have the potential to be made more attractive and form another 'loop' of the developing Truro Loops Project. It was also commented that in France sports pitches were used, off-season to provide motorhome parking for visitors.

The Chairman stated the two recommendations would be voted on separately. Accordingly:

It was moved by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Allen, and

**RECOMMENDED** that, Boscawen Park was not a suitable site for large motorhomes due to its relative isolation from town, unsuitable car park and pressure on resources.

It was moved by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Allen, and

**RECOMMENDED** that, the Council maintain an open and positive approach to this issue and consider recommending further investigation of an alternative site for low-cost motorhome parking facilities as part of any re-development closer to the City (or in the park and ride facilities) (with other partners such as Camping-car parking in future).

### 319 ESTIMATES 2021/2022

The Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer reported on the draft Estimates, having been previously circulated. The general context on which the Parks and Amenities Committee should consider its estimates was that, for the Council as a whole, the figures resulted in an increase of 1.5% in the Precept, which due to a reduction in the Tax Base, would result in a 1.9% increase to individual payers. This increase was just under 10p per week for a Band D property. The impact of coronavirus had been particularly significant, and the Council had reviewed its budget after both the first and second quarters of the financial year. This financial planning work had enabled the Council to mitigate its income losses and he was confident the Council would not be carrying liabilities forward and there would be a surplus at the end of the year. Income generated by the Café in the Park was highlighted as being particularly good during the lockdown.

#### **Parks and Amenities Committee Estimates**

The overall summary of net revenue expenditure was set out on page 14. The Actual Estimate for 2019 – 20 was £965,727 compared to the Approved Estimate of £977,630.

#### **Summary of Net Revenue Spending**

A detailed breakdown was set out on page 30. The largest items of expenditure continued to be the costs of employment. This included the cost of furloughing some members of staff during the first lockdown. These costs had been reviewed to match the loss of £35,000. Paragraph 6 indicated a total Revised Estimate 2020 - 21 of -£28,320 and an Estimate for 2021 – 21 of £21,783. This was a small change resulting in a £999,413 Estimate for 2021 – 22 which he considered to be positive.

He highlighted Page 31 Paragraph 7 Parks Committee Capital Fund. A one-off increase in contributions of £63,000 Revised 2020 - 21 from £33,000 Approved 2020 - 21 was recommended for the Vehicles and Plant Fund. This reflected the Council's aging vehicle fleet and the need for some replacement machinery. The Estimate for 2021 – 22 was £34,000. The Parks and Amenities Manager confirmed he would be meeting the Chairman of the Parks and Amenities Committee later that week to finalise requirements for replacement vehicles (which had included consideration of both petrol and electric vehicles. The potential cost of respraying new Council vehicles in appropriate blue colour was highlighted. The Deputy Parks Manager and Compliance Officer had also been working on the reduction of hand and arm vibration (HAVS) and the purchase of new heavier mowing machinery which generated less vibration, to replace lighter domestic mowers which generated more vibration, currently in operation.

The Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer also recommended a change to the Capital Maintenance Fund – moving £10,000 from 2021 – 22 to 2020 – 2021. The Tennis Courts Fund Approved 2020 – 21 of £9,600 contribution reflected the stipulation of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) (as part of the terms of its grant and loan to the Council) that provision for the re-surfacing of the tennis courts in ten years be made. This requirement had been reduced by the LTA due to the coronavirus resulting in £4,800 for Revised 2020 – 21.

### **Schedule of Fees and Charges 2021/2022**

The Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer reported on the schedule of proposed fees and charges on pages 38 – 39. On page 38 he drew attention to the recommended new charge of £5.00 for the purchase of a floodlighting token. On page 39 he corrected the Reservation Fees – Grave Plot – Present £200 Recommended from 1 April 2021 £206 to read £149 and £155, respectively.

### **Statement of Funds and Reserves - Parks Committee Fund**

The Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer updated Members on the projected Available Resource on 31 March 2022 on page 42. The Balance as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 was £363,888 and the Available Resource 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 was £445,693, which overall he considered reflected a healthy financial position. He went on to report tenders for the replacement tennis pavilion works were expected to be sent out on 12 January and a report back to the Committee would be made in due course.

Several matters were raised by the Committee and responses provided, including:

- i. Referring to Allotment Line 6109 Page 32, the Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer confirmed £63,815 was currently available in the Allotment Development Fund. The Parks and Amenities Manager confirmed interest in horticultural matters had increased during the pandemic with a consequential lengthening of waiting list. He expressed the hope that future development of additional allotment plots would free up plots from existing sites.
- ii. The Parks and Amenities Manager commented the potential cost of re-spraying Council vehicles (if needed) might be cheaper in bulk.
- iii. Referring to Page 42, a Member queried the deficit of -£3,248, which might relate to the pandemic and asked the Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer if additional funding should be allocated for future repairs to the Skate Park. The Parks and Amenities Manager confirmed the condition of the Skate Park was monitored; the Council's Maintenance Team had undertaken repairs and the Skate Park was safe to operate. However, it was about 11/12 years' old and surface cracks were visible. Prior to the pandemic there had been consultation with the new Hendra Residents' Association on the future repair/ renewal of the Skate Park. It was suggested an application be made to Cornwall Council for funding to cover the loss of car parking income at Hendra Car Park. The Town Clerk reported he had successfully applied for £111k of funding, previously. He anticipated applying to Cornwall Council at the end of the Third Quarter for a lesser amount.
- iv. The Town Clerk/ Responsible Finance Officer was asked if he considered the Council was able to sustain itself in the future, or if further cost reductions were necessary because the next two to three years currently looked challenging. Town Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer reiterated work to mitigate costs was on-going. He reminded the Committee the Localised Council Tax Support was expected to reduce in 2022-23 and be phased out by 2023-24, and this could not be avoided (Paragraph 8 Page 9). The costs of repairs to the Municipal Building's Clock Tower also could not be avoided (Paragraph 2 Page 15). Next year the Council would need to continue mitigation action, earning income or reducing costs accordingly, which he acknowledged would be challenging. He considered there was a risk such action might be exacerbated by coronavirus in 2021 – 22. At this stage, the assumption in the Revenue Budget was that income would return to normal levels from April 2021, however, the Council might need to consider a revised budget following the First Quarter.

Following further deliberation:

It was moved by Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor Biscoe, and

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that, a contribution from the COVID support grant received from Cornwall Council be made to the Hendra Development Fund to reflect the loss in revenue received due to COVID and that the skatepark would need repairs carried out in the future.

It was then moved by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Ellis, and

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that a revised Budget be considered at the end of the First Quarter 2021 – 22.

Finally, it was moved by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by the Chairman, and

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that:

1. The Revised Estimates for 2020 – 2021 be approved.
2. The Estimates for 2021 – 2022 be approved.
3. The Financial Forecasts for 2022 - 2023 and 2023 - 2024 be agreed in principle.
4. The contributions to the Parks Committee Capital Fund set out on page 31 be approved.
5. The Schedule of Fees and Charges 2021/2022 set out on pages 38 - 41 be approved.

**320 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

The Chairman confirmed the next Committee meeting would be held on Monday 8 February 2021 and it would be a virtual meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm

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CHAIRMAN

## **Tremorvah Playing Field**

### **Introduction**

At the last meeting of Council on 7 December 2021. Draft Minute 299 refers – see copy overleaf. Members:

**“RESOLVED** that the Parks & Amenities Manager would:

- (i) continue to monitor the play equipment into the spring, the process of which would include talking to residents about their views;
- (ii) investigate the costs to a) move the equipment within the playing field, to a location away from the residents, and b) move the equipment to Boscawen Park, including associated costs of replacing the equipment with another piece of suitable equipment at Tremorvah;
- (iii) report his findings back to a later meeting of the Council in spring 2021.”

Since the meeting I have requested the details for potential costs of moving the equipment. These costs are awaited, and a report will be made to the Committee meeting.

### **Recent History**

At the Council meeting on 26 October Members had considered a report by the Parks and Amenities Manager on concerns raised by some local residents about play equipment, including one particular item and its use and the history to the extension to the playground. Council:

**“RESOLVED** that the recommendation within the Parks & Amenities Manager’s report be adopted (that the Council continues to monitor the situation) and an update be reported to Councillors before Christmas, where further monitoring could be considered if necessary.”

Previously the Parks and Amenities Committee had considered a verbal report by the Parks and Amenities Manager at its meeting on 5 October. Minute 207 refers. The Committee:

**“RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that:**

1. The Parks & Amenities Committee noted the verbal report made by the Parks & Amenities Manager to the meeting held on 5 October 2020.
2. The Committee supported the action taken by the Parks & Amenities Manager to date, in response to complaints received.
3. A written report, setting out the action taken in 2. above be submitted by the Town Clerk for consideration by Council at its next meeting on 26 October 2020
4. Cornwall Council’s Environmental Protection Team be requested to undertake recording(s) of noise levels at Tremorvah Play Area.”

At the meeting scheduled for 11 January 2021 the Committee will be requested to consider the results of the investigations referred to above and make a recommendation to Council as appropriate.

**Richard Budge**  
**Parks and Amenities Manager**  
**22 December 2020**

## Draft Minutes – Council 7 December 2020

### “297 TREMORVAH PLAYING FIELD

Further to Min 236, Page 111 (26.10.2020), Councillors reviewed the Parks & Amenities Manager’s report and discussed the issue (also raised Minute 291, Page 139 above). Councillors discussed the complaints in more detail, including points pertaining to how long residents had lived by the park without issue and that the problem needed to be addressed sooner rather than later.

The Parks & Amenities Manager informed Members he had seen the videos on social media, and it was clear that the equipment was being misused. The equipment itself was fit for purpose and had passed numerous vigorous safety tests. Only one of the videos related to the new equipment of which the previous noise complaints had been associated with, and the other was a much older piece of equipment. The Parks & Amenities Manager also confirmed the newer piece of equipment had been funded by the Friends of Tremorvah Playing Field group, as well as from Section 106 monies and the City Council. After purchase it was handed to the City Council for management/maintenance and was therefore under City Council ownership.

Members discussed the issue further, including points about careful consideration relating to funding, and that there was a possibility the noise issues would continue regardless of whether the equipment was moved, because it may be more related to unrest during the pandemic. It was also pointed out that it was important to check the sources of anything posted on social media.

Discussion on this item was paused to comply with Standing Orders and the discussion then continued in Minute 299 below.

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### 299 TREMORVAH PLAYING FIELD

Continuing from Minute 297 above, Councillors felt that the Parks & Amenities Manager’s recommendation in his report (that monitoring of the equipment and any noise disturbances continue into the spring when the equipment was likely to be used to a greater degree due to the better weather) was sensible as only two separate complaints had been received, but that it was also important to investigate other options in the meantime.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Webb, seconded by Councillor Mrs Stokes and

**RESOLVED** that the Parks & Amenities Manager would:

- (i) continue to monitor the play equipment into the spring, the process of which would include talking to residents about their views;
- (ii) investigate the costs to a) move the equipment within the playing field, to a location away from the residents, and b) move the equipment to Boscawen Park, including associated costs of replacing the equipment with another piece of suitable equipment at Tremorvah;
- (iii) report his findings back to a later meeting of the Council in spring 2021.”

### **The Potential for Charged Motorhome Parking at Boscawen Park**

At the Parks and Amenities Committee meeting held on 7 September 2020 it was decided that:

“1. The following additional work be considered by the Boscawen Park Project Group: the establishment of an overnight mobile home facility at Boscawen Park.”  
Minute 152 refers.

A report was provided on the background research on this subject for consideration by the Boscawen Park Project Working Group. This is a copy of the report for consideration by the City Council’s Parks and Amenities Committee.

#### **Motorhome Parking: Background.**

There are an estimated 225,000 motorhome owners in the UK and motorhomes come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes<sup>1</sup>. The popularity of motorhome touring by visitors from the UK and Europe is increasing. Both staycations and sales of motor homes and campervans are reported to have risen during the Coronavirus pandemic<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Commercial Providers**

Commercial providers generally mean campsites and caravan parks. These facilities charge around £25 - £30 a night<sup>3</sup>. However, users will expect facilities such as toilets, shower block, disabled facilities, WC chemical disposal point, fresh water, rubbish disposal, internet access, washing-up area and so forth. These kinds of sites would often have access to a shop, playground and public transport to town, or pubs and restaurants nearby. Their target market is often families on holiday and sites are intended for stays of 1 to 2 weeks. Providers have extensive rules around issues such as putting up awnings, pitching a ‘pup’ tent, car parking, car parking by pitch, use of firepit, picnic table and so forth. This is not a comparable service to what is suggested for Boscawen Park – the proposition there would be for ‘Parking’ rather than ‘Camping’.

#### **Stop Over schemes**

A more comparable service would be something along the lines of ‘Aires’ provided routinely on the continent. These are low-cost facilities provided for a maximum stay of 1 – 2 nights. The target market tends to be older, self-contained, stop-over visitors who park and visit a local town for cultural and recreational purposes for 1 or 2 days. Rules discourage extra equipment being used such as: awnings, wind breaks, tables, chairs, bbqs. Minimal facilities are still usually expected such as a water point, chemical disposal and rubbish disposal.

Currently in the UK there are a number of ways in which such overnight stopover sites are found:

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.caravanclub.co.uk/advice-and-training/guide-to-buying-hiring-vehicles/Buying-a-car-caravan-or-motorhome/buying-a-motorhome/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/motors/2020/06/08/motorhome-and-caravan-prices-on-the-rise-as-brits-opt-to-holiday-at-home/>

<sup>3</sup> See for example pricing at [www.pitchup.com](http://www.pitchup.com) for Summer Valley Touring Park, Allet, TR4 9DW. Mid- season From: £18 non-electric to £23 electric, High season £22 non electric to £27.50 electric.

- Users search via the internet for a parking spot, often at short notice via sites such as searchforsites.co.uk<sup>4</sup> - many listed sites are free or charge a minimal parking charge. See link to listing below for Boscawen Park.
- Users take advantage of listings provided by organisations such as the ukmotorhomes.net stopover listing<sup>5</sup> which lists 'sanctioned non-camping' overnight stop over sites, for example in carparks, pubs and sports clubs, some of which are part of the NIGHT STOP scheme run by practical motorhome Magazine and The Motorcaravanners Club. One local example from the list is the Willow Park Carpark in Mevagissey charging £8 per night.<sup>6</sup> Charges are generally below £10. Note a listing for Clovelly, July 2020 that says – 'Motorhome overnight stays are no longer permitted due to the unacceptable behaviour of some'.
- Users join a card access and app-based scheme such as Camping-car Parking, the major operator of Aires in France<sup>7</sup> with almost 200 sites. This organisation is reported as planning to expand into the UK.<sup>8</sup> It works on a 'pass etapes' card system where you pay a few euros for the card then load it with credit and enter sites via barrier system. 24 hours cost between 7.30 to 15 Euros. A variety of services including electricity, water and wi-fi are provided at sites.

### Local Authority Providers

There are very few local councils that provide parking facilities for motorhomes in the UK. One example is Canterbury. In this case the edge of town New Dover Park and Ride, has 30 extra-large bays for motorhomes with a large turning circle. Fresh water and waste disposal facilities are also available. Security cameras are installed. It costs £3.50 per day (midnight to midnight) and this includes the use of Park and Ride buses. The site opens at 6am and the entry barriers lock at 8pm, but you can exit at any time.<sup>9</sup> Canterbury coach park in the centre of town has 48 spaces and charges £15 for 12 hours.

### Campaign for Motorhome Stopover sites

There is an active campaign called CAMpRA campaigning for Aires in the UK, its facebook page<sup>10</sup> boasts 11, 800 members and is related to 8 other motorhome facebook groups with many tens of thousands of members. Its website that lists campaigning materials including sample letters to councillors<sup>11</sup>. There is evidence of a growing demand nationwide for motorhome parking facilities.

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<sup>4</sup> Listing for Boscawen Park on this site can be viewed here:  
<https://www.searchforsites.co.uk/markerMobile.php?id=32092>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ukmotorhomes.net/uk-stopovers/motorhome-stopover-listing#close>

<sup>6</sup> Listings are changed frequently and often based on visor reports – this one says updated July 2020.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://campingcarpark.com/en/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ukmotorhomes.net/news/camping-car-park-to-expand-into-the-uk#close>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20060/places\\_to\\_park/225/coach\\_and\\_motorhome\\_parking](https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20060/places_to_park/225/coach_and_motorhome_parking)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/campra.uk/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.campra.org.uk/>

## **Cornwall Council**

Although motorhomes are allowed to park during the day, overnight sleeping is banned in all Cornwall Council car parks and in 70 carparks it is not permitted to park overnight. There is also an overnight parking ban (11pm - 8am) with a £70.00 fine for motorhomes in these car parks<sup>12</sup>.

### **Suitability of Boscawen Park**

Any consideration of the suitability of Boscawen Park as a motorhome parking site should note the following risks:

- The current car park is under extreme pressure due to a major increase in park use during Covid-19, (some report estimate 200-300 per cent increase in footfall<sup>13</sup>) increased use of the tennis courts, the popularity of the playpark and unauthorised commuter parking due to new parking restrictions in town. It will come under further pressure due to the new canoe club and tennis pavilion/café facilities.
- The car park itself is generally quite long and relatively thin making a turning circle for large motorhomes difficult to accommodate.
- There is little or no public transport into town (a walking distance of 1.2 miles, 24 minutes to Lemon Quay according to google maps) and there is no adjacent local shop or pub. The Café in the Park or Trennick Mill being the only facilities.
- There is currently no evening/night staff cover to deal with any issues or barrier entry problems etc.
- Investment would need to be made to provide even minimal facilities such as toilets and fresh water and waste water disposal.
- The maximum charge that could be made is likely to be £8 - £10.
- There is a risk of attracting anti-social elements, increasing pressure on the site from litter, rubbish and possibly crime if the site has no security cameras.
- At present the parking is unauthorised and free but tends to be at a low level.
- Possible conflict and pressure on existing resources with little extra capacity such as the existing toilets, cafe, and playpark.

### **Benefits:**

- Possible direct income – at £10 per night and 60 per cent occupancy over the year, 5 pitches would, for example, net £10,950 in revenue per year. However considerable extra investment and on -going costs such as staff time would be required.
- Increase in tourist footfall and spend for Truro, as motorhome visitors spend money in town
- Increased reputation for hospitality and welcome for Town and ‘enlightened approach’.
- Brings Truro in line with twin town Boppard that has minimal motorhome parking facilities<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/parking/cornwall-council-car-parks/motorhome-parking/>.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/parks-and-beaches-across-the-uk-are-busier-than-ever/>

<sup>14</sup> See stopover search entry for Boppard here: <https://www.searchforsites.co.uk/marker.php?id=10160>

**Recommendations:**

(i) That Boscawen Park is not a suitable site for large motorhomes due to its relative isolation from town, unsuitable car park and pressure on resources.

(ii) That the Council maintain an open and positive approach to this issue and consider recommending further investigation of an alternative site for low-cost motorhome parking facilities as part of any re-development closer to town (or in the park and ride facilities) (with other partners such as Camping-car parking in future).

**Further information sources**

**Clubs etc**

Report Author:  
Isabelle Risner,  
Parks and Amenities Administrator

**Richard Budge**  
**Parks & Amenities Manager**

17 September 2020