

Date: 18 August 2020

Emma Neil
Burwash Parish Council
Parish Offices
High Street
Burwash
East Sussex
TN19 7EU



Dear Emma,

Thank you for your letter dated 20 July 2020.

I have consulted colleagues internally on the content of the letter and am pleased to now be in a position to confirm Rother District Council's position.

As you will be aware from previous correspondence from this office, RDC has experienced significant reductions to its operating budget in recent years and is therefore seeking to reduce those services it operates that are not required under statute. We have successfully negotiated with some parish councils and the devolvement of assets has occurred.

I am sure you will appreciate that while we have some flexibility between the precise terms agreed between different parish councils we are keen to provide a consistent offer. It is for this reason that we are confident that the terms of the offer to Burwash Parish Council have been made explicit to you throughout; indeed, we have provided evidence of such. We regret that the lease terms have been interpreted in the way that they have and that the meaning of these terms does not seem to have been communicated to you effectively.

It is important to note that the request to devolve the car park but not the public conveniences is not an unprecedented request: we have declined to accept this offer previously and do so again in this case. The reason is that RDC can no longer afford to meet the cost of operating many of its public conveniences and we are offering them to parish councils to operate; regrettably, it is likely that many public conveniences will be recommended for permanent closure if they cannot be devolved. With regard to those car parks that RDC own and that are presently free to use, we are likely to recommend that charging is introduced. The introduction of charges will ensure that the cost of maintaining car parks is met by those that use them.

The signage within Burwash Car Park has been erected in accordance with the new District of Rother Parking Places Order 2020 that was approved by Cabinet in November 2019. The only change affecting Burwash car park is the reduction in maximum waiting time from 24 hours to 23 hours. This measure has been introduced in every car park to support the enforcement of vehicles left unmoved in car parks for prolonged periods such that they draw complaint from other car park users.

We remain open to negotiating the devolvement of both the car park and public conveniences at Burwash and please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter in more detail.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Powell
Head of Housing and Community Services

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