FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI 822/17

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request:

Further to correspondence last year regarding the above tax, under freedom of information legislation can you please provide the following:-

1. The total cost of the introduction of the tax to the above areas including all "consultation", signage, etc?

   Answer: Signage cost £481.71. It is difficult to quantify cost of consultation as formal consultation would have been carried out in conjunction with many other areas. Similarly informal consultation costs are difficult to quantify as the administration is part of the parking section’s duty but it is estimated to cost around £200.

2. The number and cost of weekly enforcement patrols?

   Answer: There is one scheduled enforcement patrol per week with occasional adhoc proactive and reactive patrols. Cost of patrols cannot be adequately calculated but it is estimated to cost around £20 per patrol.

3. The total revenue raised at the original tax level of £25.00 per vehicle?

   Answer: The total revenue raised is £725 to date from the admin fee for permits.

4. The date raising the tax to £40.00 per vehicle was first considered?

   Answer: 4th February 2016 Places Scrutiny panel raised that a balanced commercial approach was required in the approach to residential parking permits.

   Members were advised that Cabinet had previously approved a bi-annual basic review; permits were still £25 at the time. Parking permit charges were included in the annual review of fees and charges; discussion about pricing between the Parking Manager, Places Director and Leader were ongoing throughout 2016 ahead of fees and charges report going to Cabinet 17th January 2017.

5. The justification for raising the tax by almost 70% when wage increases are in single figures and often as low as 1%?
Answer: The Council has updated the cost of resident permits. There has been no material reason why the proposed increase could not have been implemented.

6. Plans made for the spending of any income raised, for example, whether the council has found the increase in tax necessary to offset the cost of the scheme or whether this is simply income generation given the political and legislative limitations in relation to raising the council tax?

Answer: There are no individual plans made for the spending of any income raised through permits. The Council has updated the cost of resident permits having taken a balanced commercial approach. Permits do not constitute tax.

You are free to use any documents supplied for your own use, including for non-commercial research purposes. The documents may also be used for news reporting. However, any other type of re-use, for example by publishing the documents or issuing copies to the public will require the permission of the copyright owner, where copyright exists. Such a request would be considered separately in accordance with the relevant Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 and is not automatic. Therefore, no permission is implied in the re-use of this information, until such a request to re-use it has been made and agreed, subject to any appropriate conditions. Any request to re-use the information should be made to me at the address below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully
FOI Administrator
Corporate Support Team, Rutland County Council