

THE SANDBANKS FERRY OFFERS BH19 CONCESSION

December 2024

Our increased community engagement and one-to-one stakeholder meetings have enabled us to better understand where the concerns to our proposed increased tolls lie.

It is with gratitude to our community that they have met with us, asked questions, and challenged us in a fair and measured way about our decisions. We have a delicate balance to navigate around the important service the ferry provides to our communities, the visitor, the worker, and the emergency services who all rely on this important link between Purbeck and Poole. The Ferry Company is an important service while also being a commercial business which needs to remain financially viable.

As a consequence of our public event last Wednesday and wider conversations, we have taken on board feedback from our community and decided to offer an additional concession to local residents regarding the Road Only Toll.

Should the implementation of the Road Toll be approved, those in a BH19 postcode will be offered free use of Ferry Road.

We propose to administer this by asking local residents to visit the Ferry Office with their vehicle's original V5C (Vehicle Logbook / Registration Certificate) verifying their BH19 postcode. Following payment of a small admin fee (currently £5.00), we will register that vehicle for free use of Ferry Road for a whole year. After every 12 months, residents can return to the Ferry Office and repeat the same process.

The concession for BH19 residents is in addition to the existing proposed policies. For clarity, a 30-minute grace period allows for any short driving trips and anyone using the Ferry will only have to pay for their Ferry ticket and will not be charged for using the road, on any given day. Anyone taking their vehicle to properties or using car parks off Ferry Road, including National Trust car parks will also not be charged for using the road. Our proposed road toll also does not apply to pedestrians or cyclists.

We have investigated the possibility of the road toll being paid for using an existing Sandbanks Ferry Ticket Card, however, have found that this solution will be difficult to administer and therefore unviable. We hope that the new concession for BH19 residents is a satisfactory alternative.

We are grateful to all of those who took the time to come and meet us last week in Swanage. The discussions held on the day and the feedback gathered has been incredibly useful and insightful. We look forward to remaining in contact with our local community and are committed to continued engagement in the long term.

ENDS