

Hello everyone, my name is Victoria Cowley, I manage the car parks and have been manager for five years now. For those who don't know, the Walberswick Car Parks is a PLC. It is run by 6 volunteer Directors from the village and 100% of its annual profit is covenanted to the Walberswick Common Lands Charity. In addition, the Car Parks pays annual rent to WCLC for the land. Our Annual Report is filed with Company's House and publicly available. The Directors and I are really proud of the work we do in providing parking in the village and being a large contributor to the WCLC.

I am just going to drop some quick figures from 2020 and for this year so far, mainly to show how busy have been and the sheer amount of traffic we manage to control in such a small village with as minimum impact as possible.

In 2020, with all its ups and downs, all the lockdowns, uncertainties and anti-social behaviours, we saw unprecedented amounts of cars and visitors to the village as people poured in from all over the country to flock to the beach.

Over the year we sold 55,385 tickets. That is with lockdowns, restrictions and completely closing for April and part of May. We managed to contribute £72,121 to Walberswick Common Lands Charity which is a completely incomparable sum to all previous years. The previous highest being £43,209.

We had an incredible group of wonderful attendants that worked very hard on some very hot days to keep traffic moving smoothly, provide information to visitors and a large part of their job, keep the car parks clean. A constant issue for us. Attendants also had to deal with some very unsavoury issues as we had a fair few visitors behaving anti socially. Fights breaking out because people weren't allowed to crab on the Kissing bridge, just one of the unbelievable examples.

So far, this year, despite the lockdown in the early months and the increasingly unpredictable weather we have sold 43,073 tickets. Bear in mind that most cars have families in, so it is a huge number of people that visited.

We have had higher expenditure this year, fixing the potholes on both car parks and the Cliff Field track and we will be installing new removable posts in Cliff Field at the end of the season to help combat the vandalism we had last winter with people ripping up turf. However, we should still be seeing a large profit going to the Charity again for 2021, likely exceeding £50,000.

This year in general has been so much calmer and more pleasant than the last, everyone has calmed down a bit and the weather wasn't quite as scorching. We implemented some changes at the beginning of the year, increasing the daily ticket cost by a pound and charging until 6pm. This is in keeping with practices in neighbouring towns and villages. We also did this to encourage a swifter turnaround of people so we would have less queuing and because we had so many visitors last year arriving after 5pm.

A consistent issue for us year after year is rubbish and dog waste. I have spent more hours of my life talking about these subjects than I ever thought I would! And more than I ever cared to. We endeavour to manage it as well as we can and we pay for extra bins and pick-ups throughout summer. Ironically, the more bins we place, the more rubbish occurs. It is an important matter and one we hope to continue to work and improve on.

Finally, I would like to say how much I appreciate the attendants and all that they do. Oddly enough I noticed that google maps has now got a couple of reviews on the car parks and we were praised for being well organised and having helpful staff and I am very proud of them.

I hope to continue to manage the car parks, I love working for such a vital part of the community to keep the village running smoothly, keep it clean and contribute such a large part to the Charity.