

Dear Sirs

Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch

Following meetings facilitated by British Canoeing, most of you will be aware that Walford Parish Council has purchased the canoe launch site at Kerne Bridge which is situated in our parish.

We have publicly stated that it is our intention to improve the facilities at the site in order to improve the visitor experience there. We also hope that we will be able to make the operation of the site more business-like in order to improve the experience for you, the operator.

As has been explained this does require investment and it is our intention, commencing on the 1st April 2017, to charge for access to the site by way of issuing a permit to each operating company which requires access to the site to launch there. We, encouraged by the Environment Agency and British Canoeing, will also require that any permitted company operates under a quality control regime administered by British Canoeing or similar. We will, for a limited period, accept applications from companies who are working towards a quality accreditation but will, of course, require evidence of this.

The intended charge for a full permit will be £1000 per annum but, following consultation, we are intending to try to accommodate the smaller operator or the more specialist who deals with fewer canoe hirers, by the issuing of a 'part permit'.

To achieve this we are hoping to base our approach on a declaration system. This will be an honesty based system of cooperation whereby each operator will declare in advance the anticipated number of canoe launches in a season.

I am therefore writing to ask that you let us have your preliminary application by the end of February 2017. Please write to us on your company letterhead, indicating the estimated number of canoe launches that you wish to undertake and whether you have or are working towards a suitable quality assurance regime.

I hope that you will appreciate our attempts to service the needs of our visitors and your business and look forward to working with you to achieve this. It will be our intention to invite a user group to share experiences with us so that we can continue to develop the site for our mutual benefit.

With best wishes

Yours faithfully



Frank Myers MBE

Chairman