

CYNGOR GWYNEDD CABINET



Report for a meeting of Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet

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| Date of meeting: | 14 October 2025 |
| Cabinet Member: | Councillor R. Medwyn Hughes |
| Contact Officer: | Llŷr Jones, Assistant Head of Economy and Community |
| Contact Telephone Number: | 01286 679219 Ext 2219 |
| Title of Item: | Dinas Dinlle Car Park Management Plan |

1 THE DECISION SOUGHT

That Cabinet supports the proposal in the report to proceed with the process for making a permanent off-street parking order in Dinas Dinlle Car Park.

Delegate authority to the Head of Economy and Community in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy and Community and the Head of Legal Services and in accordance with the Regulations to prepare a draft order, publish a Notice of Intention to make the order with a public consultation period, collate and consider all responses, respond to objectors and modify the proposal if necessary and, subject to these processes Make the final Order and publish a Notice of Making an Order.

2 THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

Cabinet approval is sought to proceed with the legal steps of introducing a permanent Off-street Parking Order for Dinas Dinlle car park, by following the statutory procedure as set out in the Traffic Orders to Local Authorities (Order) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

The Cabinet is requested to approve the intention of making a new order and ensure that the Councils acts in accordance with the relevant regulations and requirements.

3 INTRODUCTION

The Cabinet has already supported the intention of commencing the process for making a permanent off-street parking order at Dinas Dinlle Car Park.

A report on the Dinas Dinlle Car Park Management Plan was submitted to Cabinet on 10th June 2025, which can be found at the link below:

<https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/documents/s44914/Item%206%20-%20Dinas%20Dinlle%20Car%20Park%20Management%20Plan.pdf>

At that time, it was agreed to commence a process for making a permanent off-street

parking order in Dinas Dinlle Car Park and to delegate authority to the Head of Economy and Community in consultation with the Cabinet member and the Head of Legal Services to prepare an order that will make the experimental order permanent, and then to give notice of this in the press in accordance with Regulation 22 and 23 of the Regulations. However, following further legal work it is considered that it would be better to prepare a permanent traffic order on its own as the Experimental Order is no longer operational.

This report is presented to Cabinet in order to provide an update on the work, and recommend that a new parking order be created rather than converting the experimental order into a permanent one. As a result, the new Order would be created under Sections 32-36, 124 (1) and Schedule 9 (Part 4) of the Road Traffic Management Act 1984.

The Dinas Dinlle beach car park is within the responsibilities of the Maritime Service, Economy and Community Department. The car park has been established there for many years, and is popular with a range of users, including local residents and visitors to the area. A location plan of the site has been included as Appendix 1.

During the 2018/19 period, the Council considered a list of financial savings to address the financial deficit facing local authorities in Wales at the time. At its meeting on 19 February 2019, the Cabinet gave its approval to proceed to implement the savings schemes list, which included establishing parking fees on Dinas Dinlle beach.

The proposal was discussed with the Community Council in 2019, acknowledging that further details would need to be developed, as well as an opportunity to incorporate improvements to the site. Unfortunately, the development work had to be paused for a substantial period because of the C-19 period and other resulting priorities.

During 2022/23 the Service identified resources to undertake preparatory work for a scheme to upgrade the car park. In 2023, we managed to obtain grant funding from the Welsh Government's Brilliant Basics programme, subject to spending most of the funding during 2023/4. A contractor was appointed to carry out capital work on the site between October 2023 – March 2024, including resurfacing work, adapting the entrances, marking individual parking bays, providing a bus stop, landscaping and upgrading of facilities such as bins, signage, picnic tables, railings and retaining walls.

Since the capital work was completed, further work has been done by the Service, with the intention of developing a long-term management plan for the site.

4 THE RATIONALE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

The Maritime Service is responsible for managing and supervising many beaches along the Gwynedd coastline. A beach management plan has been developed with the aim of offering public and safe access to beaches and coastal resources for local residents and visitors, and thus facilitate activities to promote the local economy and contribute towards the well-being of our communities.

The plan identifies the main beaches in Aberdaron, Aberdyfi, Barmouth, Abersoch, Cricieth, Morfa Bychan, Pwllheli, Tywyn and Dinas Dinlle. The Maritime Service is responsible for the safety arrangements of beaches in these locations and appoints seasonal beach wardens to implement them.

The features of these main beaches are very varied, as well as the associated infrastructure and facilities. The car parking provision is an important part of the infrastructure – with parking fees payable for the car parks of the main beaches, with Dinas Dinlle as the only exception. When considering possible arrangements for introducing parking fees at Dinas Dinlle, many operational considerations have also been highlighted, and it is considered that there is an opportunity to establish a broader management plan for the site.

a) Introducing Parking Fees at Dinas Dinlle beach car park (Trial Period)

During initial discussions with the members of Llandwrog Community Council in 2019, it became apparent that there were local concerns around the proposal to introduce parking fees at Dinas Dinlle. Such concerns included the detrimental impact on the businesses and residents of the village, highway safety, and the opinion that the beach served a vast area of Gwynedd residents and contributed to health and well-being.

In the Spring 2024, and after completing the physical work on the site, the Service held further discussions with the Local Members and Members of the Community Council to draw up a package for the site. Following these discussions, it was decided to hold a trial period in August 2024 and introduce parking fees. It was felt that conducting a trial period would be advantageous, and for the period to be reviewed and appraised as part of the work to develop permanent management arrangements for the site.

A Traffic Regulation Order (Trial) was arranged for the site, and the trial period was operational between 16 August and 30 September 2024. During this period, the following parking fees were payable between the hours of 0900 - 1700 daily, via payment machines.

Up to 1 hour: Free
Up to 2 hours: £2.00
Up to 3 hours: £3.00
Up to 8 hours: £6.00
Season Ticket: £25.00

After the trial period, a public consultation was arranged during October and November, inviting feedback from the residents of local businesses, car park users, statutory organisations and local groups.

The Service has reviewed and appraised the trial period, and the main conclusions are summarised below:

i) Managerial and operational considerations

When operating the arrangements of the trial period, feedback from Maritime Service officers noted:

- A delay in receiving and then connecting the payment machines led to the delay of the trial period.

- The electrical connection was lost during the first weekend of the trial period.
- Very wet weather during the last fortnight in August affected the numbers using the car park.
- The decision was made not to implement enforcement arrangements during the trial period, and many users did not pay the parking fee
- Payment machines worked well overall, but arrangements for the first hour being free were unclear on a few occasions
- It was seen that the gravel level within the grasscrete reduced as it settled, and it needed to be replenished regularly.
- The new entrances and layout of the car park worked well, but there were some cases where drivers ignored the 'one way' system within the car park.

ii) Financial considerations

Three payment machines were installed on the site, with payments being made by card or via the 'Pay By Phone' app. An analysis of the parking tickets was produced during the period of 16 August - 30 September, which is noted below:

| Machine | Number of tickets | Number of paid tickets | Number of 'free hour' tickets | Number of season tickets | Income collected |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Dinas 1 (southern section) | 1411 | 737 | 671 | 3 | £1824 |
| Dinas 2 (central section) | 231 | 120 | 109 | 2 | £336 |
| Dinas 3 (northern section) | 652 | 284 | 367 | 1 | £696 |
| Sub-total | 2,294 | 1141 | 1,147 | 6 | £2,856 |
| Pay by Phone | 371 | 371 | - | - | £727 |
| Total | 2,665 | 1,512 | 1,147 | 6 | £3,583 |

Parking tickets to the value of £3,583 were bought during the trial period.

a) Feedback and observations received during the public consultation

As a part of the public consultation, a bespoke questionnaire was prepared, inviting feedback by residents and local businesses, car park users and local organisations. Copies were available on the Council's website; Siop Gwynedd in Caernarfon and Pwllheli; and at Penygroes and Caernarfon libraries. Letters were sent to the residents of nearby businesses, local organisations, and the campaign was promoted in the press and on social media.

A copy of the report 'Review of Dinas Dinlle Car Park' (December 2024) has been included as Appendix 2.

We do not intend to repeat the report's entire content here, however, it is noted:

- That 248 responses were received (including 4 businesses)
- 43.9% of the individuals used Dinas Dinlle car park at least once a week.
- 82.8% of the individuals used the car park for longer than one hour.
- In terms of the experience of using the car park, 19% stated very good, 25% stated good, 28% stated acceptable, 14% stated poor, 8% stated very poor and 3% did not respond.
- 64% believed the parking fees were too high, and 30% believed that the fee level was fine.
- In terms of the site management arrangements, 50% believed that measures should be included for overnight stays in a vehicle; 36% of the opinion that measures should be included to prevent misuse of the blue badge parking spaces; 34% regarding misuse of the 'keep clear' spaces and the entrances; 28% regarding parking outside the parking bays; and 23% regarding misuse of the new bus stop.
- Enquiries were also made about the impact of parking fees on people facing socio-economic disadvantage, and 64% believed that it would have a negative impact on them.

It is considered that the trial period was very useful and offered an operational experience of the arrangements to be introduced, offering an opportunity to reflect on the experience when drawing up long-term proposals. It is also considered that there is an opportunity to develop new management arrangements for the car park, attempting to address the issues that are broader than parking fees alone.

b) Other considerations for managing the Dinas Dinlle beach car park

A combination of carrying out a trial period, feedback from the public engagement work and the operational experience of the Maritime Service has highlighted many aspects that can be incorporated to the long-term management arrangements for Dinas Dinlle beach car park.

The table below attempts to summarise those aspects, offering recommendations for developing new management arrangements:

| | Issue | Rationale (Summary) | Recommendation |
|---|--------------|---|--|
| i | Parking Fees | The Council's Cabinet has already established the principle of introducing parking fees in Dinas Dinlle as part of a savings package to address a budget deficit. The 2024 trial period has shown | To introduce parking fees as a part of the management arrangements |

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| | | that it is practically possible. Fees would also generate a source of income to establish an annual maintenance budget. | |
| ii. | Seasonal fees | There is a seasonal pattern to the use being made of the car park by visitors. The machines are not suitable to be in an open and coastal location during the Winter months. | To introduce seasonal fees between 01 March – 31 October in line with the Council's parking structure. |
| iii | Locals Ticket / Season Ticket | It must be acknowledged that concerns have been received about the impact of charging fees on the village's businesses; and many locals who use it regularly (and very often promoting their well-being by doing so). In the survey, 65% believed that the fees were too high; and observations were also received in favour of free parking and / or an annual ticket for local residents. It is considered that an option of an annual ticket, at a reasonable cost, is important to maintain the business of the site, particularly by people making regular use of the car park. | To introduce arrangements offering a season ticket at a reasonable fee |
| iv | First hour for free | 50% of the parking tickets were for a period of 1 hour, and it has been popular. The survey shows that the car park is popular with local residents who use it regularly. It is also considered that the hour assists local businesses and reduces the impact on individuals facing a socio-economic disadvantage. | To introduce a free hour as a part of the proposed fees structure. |
| v | Overnight stays in vehicles | 50% of responses received agree that vehicles which park overnight in the car park should be managed. Practically, people can be prohibited from staying in vehicles overnight. | To introduce measures prohibiting people from staying in vehicles overnight. |
| vi | Payment machines | The 2024 trial arrangements have shown that the machines work – via card or phone app. | To continue with the existing machines to receive payments |
| vii | Enforcement Arrangements | During the trial period, cases were seen where users did not pay, as the enforcement arrangements were not operational. There is a need to secure enforcement powers and arrangements to ensure suitable management of the car park. | To introduce enforcement arrangements as part of the management arrangements. |
| viii | To protect parking | Dedicated spaces have been provided, and there is a need to ensure suitable enforcement powers and arrangements to | To introduce enforcement arrangements as |

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| | spaces for blue badges | protect them from misuse. | part of the management arrangements. |
| ix | Parking beyond the boundaries | Dedicated spaces have been provided, and there is a need to ensure suitable enforcement powers and arrangements to protect them from misuse. | To introduce enforcement arrangements as part of the management arrangements. |
| x | Protecting the bus stop | A bespoke public transport bus stop has been provided, and there is a need to secure suitable enforcement powers and arrangements to protect it from misuse. | To introduce enforcement arrangements as part of the management arrangements. |
| xi | Protection of keep clear areas / entrances | The layout of the car park has been designed to meet technical standards. Suitable enforcement powers and arrangements need to be secured to protect them from misuse. | To introduce enforcement arrangements as part of the management arrangements. |
| xii | Maintenance work | The upgrade plan has improved the condition and appearance of the car park. Maintenance work is required to ensure that the condition does not deteriorate again. Specifically, the use of the car park in 2024 has highlighted the need to ensure that there is a sufficient level of gravel within the grasscrete. | To earmark around 15% of the income for annual maintenance |
| xiii | Yellow lines | There are seasonal 'No Waiting' restrictions on a section of the main road in Dinas Dinlle, operational from 10am-7pm between 1 June – 30 September. The restrictions have been marked with a yellow line and were repainted in 2023. | None |

c) Proposed Parking Fees Structure

On 1 April 2025, changes came into force which led to an increase within the parking fees structure adopted by Cyngor Gwynedd. The parking fees structure places different car parks in bands, based on their features and location.

In accordance with section ii) of the above table, it is recommended that seasonal fees would be suitable for Dinas Dinlle car park. In accordance with the Council's parking structure (Band 3: Seasonal), a fee would be payable between 1 March and 31 October every year.

The main parking fees structure considers the features and locations of individual car parks. It is recommended that the fees structure for the Dinas Dinlle site considers specific circumstances, including

- Concerns that charging high parking fees could lead to vehicles being parked on the nearby narrow roads network – disrupting highway safety and local amenities
- The aim of the recent investment to create conditions which encourages use of the car park and associated facilities
- A historical close connection between the car park and businesses of Dinas Dinlle village
- The car park meets different needs, and arrangements which reflect that are needed.

As a result, it is recommended that a specific fees structure is considered for Dinas Dinlle to be operational from 0900 - 1700 daily, offering relatively short periods up to daily periods, e.g.:

Up to 1 hour: No fee
 Up to 2 hours: £2.20
 Up to 4 hours: £4.20
 Up to 8 hours: £6.00
 Season Ticket: £30.00

The following structure is recommended specifically for the Dinas Dinlle beach car park to produce an income stream and contribute to the Service's income targets, taking into account the site's features and restrictions.

Update on the current situation

The Council has carried out an initial consultation with designated parties, regarding the proposal to make a permanent traffic order on the Dinas Dinlle car park (in accordance with Regulation 6).

Comments have been received from Llandwrog Community Council which notes the importance of any changes to parking in Dinas Dinlle including:

- Free or affordable licences for the local community.
- Clear and timely communication about the locations of parking orders.

No further comments have been received from the statutory organisations during this initial stage.

5 NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

Subject to Cabinet approval, the next step would be to issue a notice of proposal to make the order inviting comments/objections within a period of not less than 21 days (Regulation 7). All responses would need to be collated and considered, opponents responded, the proposal modified if necessary. Subject to these processes, the Order would then need to be made under Part 3 of the Regulations. Then under Regulation 17 a second notice would need to be published stating that the order had been made.

5 ANY CONSULTATIONS HELD BEFORE RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

Chief Finance Officer:

"I can confirm that there is an income target for Dinas Dinlle Car Park since Cabinet agreed to introduce a fee and is £57,930 for 2025/26. I therefore welcome the decision sought to formalise the arrangements and ensure consistency with the previous budgetary decision."

Monitoring Officer :

"This report has been the subject of input from the Legal Services. No observations to add in relation to propriety."

Appendices

Appendix 1: Dinas Dinlle beach car park location plan

Appendix 2: 'Dinas Dinlle Car Park Survey' (December 2024)

Appendix 3: Equality Impact Assessment