



Dinas Dinlle Car Park Survey

Research and Information Service

Cyngor Gwynedd

December 2024

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Introduction

Earlier this year, improvements were completed to Dinas Dinlle car park including resurfacing, altering the entrance, marking parking spaces, landscaping and upgrading facilities.

During the period of 16 August – 30 September a trial period was arranged by charging the following parking fees between the hours of 0900 – 1700 daily:

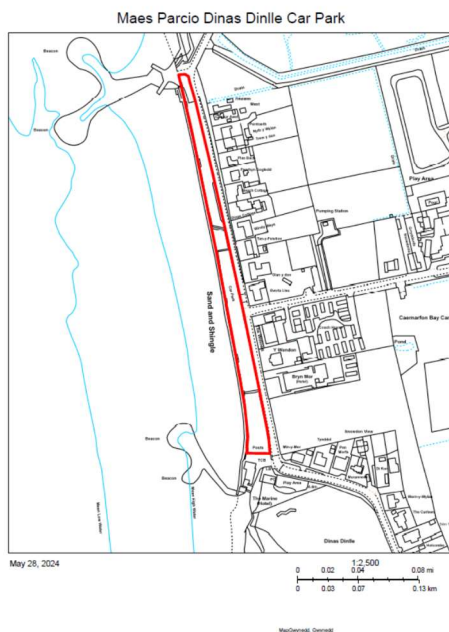
Up to 1 hour: Free

Up to 2 hours: £2.00

Up to 3 hours: £3.00

Up to 8 hours: £6.00

Season Ticket: £25.00



This survey was carried out to gather feedback from car park users, residents and local businesses on the trial period. The results will be considered when formulating future car park management arrangements.

The survey was advertised in press articles, the Council's social media, on the Council's website.

The survey has been analysed and this report has been written by Cyngor Gwynedd's Research and Information Service.

Results

1. Responses

1.1 Numbers

248 responses were received to the survey with 244 of these replying as individuals and 4 responding on behalf of a local business. 17 of the individuals are identified as living outside Gwynedd. The characteristics of the individuals can be seen in **Appendix A**.

Table 1: Number of responses

	Number	As a %
As an individual	244	98.4%
As a local business	4	1.6%
	248	100.0%

1.2 Questions for the Businesses

The businesses were asked "How often do your business customers use the car park in Dinas Dinlle?" Two of the businesses reported that their customers used the car park on a very regular basis and the other two noted that their customers occasionally used the car park. Two of the businesses were not located in Dinas Dinlle. Commenting further, the two businesses based in Dinas Dinlle noted that their customers use it on a daily basis and there is nowhere else for them to park.

When asking the businesses for their views on the parking fees their views were mixed. Both businesses based in Dinas Dinlle saw that charging fees would have an impact on their businesses and local people who visit them. Both businesses based in Penrhyndeudraeth were keen to see the fees rise.

The businesses were asked ***"During the trial period, what was your opinion on the improvements to the car park and the parking fees on the Welsh language, the opportunities to use it and its status in the community?"*** Businesses based in Dinas Dinlle did not comment. The businesses based in Penrhyndeudraeth didn't see that the question applied to charging parking fees.

The businesses were asked ***"What do you think the impact of the parking fees would be on socio-economically disadvantaged people?"*** Businesses based in Dinas Dinlle did not comment. The businesses based in Penrhyndeudraeth did not see that individuals' priorities were different and those wanting to visit the beach would be happy to pay parking fees.

1.3 Questions for the Individuals

The individuals were asked "*Did you go to Dinas Dinlle car park during the trial period?*" 77.0% of them had visited the car park during the trial period.

Table 2: Visiting during the trial period

	Number	Percentage
Yes	188	77.0%
No	47	19.3%
Not answered	9	3.7%
	244	100.0%

When asked about their use of the car park 43.9% of individuals use Dinas Dinlle car park at least once a week.

Table 3: How often do you use the car park

	Number	Percentage
More than once a week	60	24.6%
Once a week	47	19.3%
Occasionally	131	53.7%
Never use the car park	3	1.2%
Not answered	3	1.2%
	244	100.0%

When questioning of the individuals "*For how long do you normally use Dinas Dinlle car park?*" 82.8% of them stayed for longer than one hour.

Table 4: Length of stay

	Number	Percentage
Up to 1 hour	36	14.8%
Up to 2 hours	115	47.1%
Up to 3 hours	70	28.7%
Up to 8 hours	12	4.9%
More than 8 hours	5	2.0%
Not answered	6	2.5%
	244	100.0%

The individuals were asked about their experience of using the car park during the trial period. **Figure 1** indicates their views and **Table 5** shows the comments made by 121 out of the 244.

Figure 1: How was your experience of using Dinas Dinlle car park?

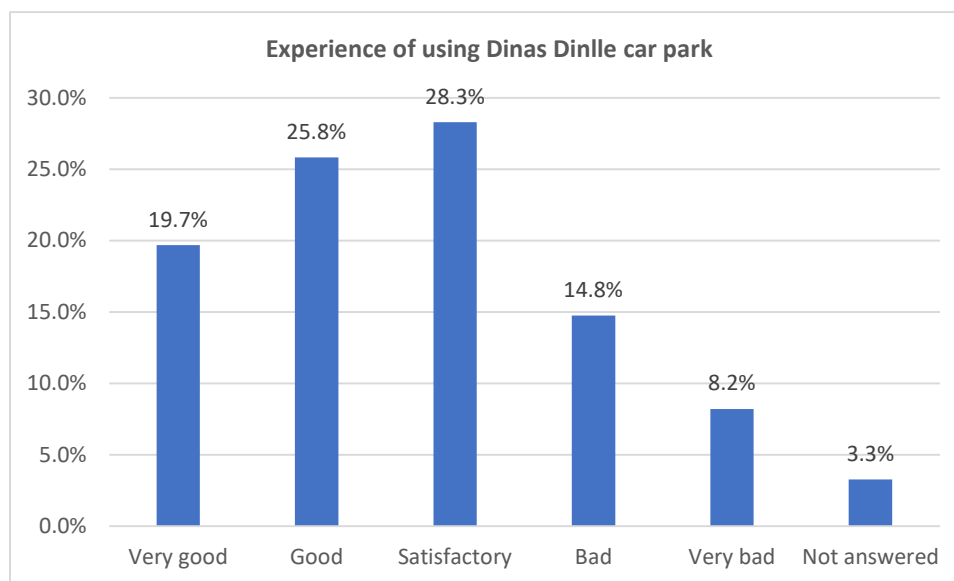


Table 5: Comments about individuals' experience of using the car park

	Number	Percentage
Fewer parking spaces now	36	29.8%
Looks much better/more convenient	29	24.0%
Ground uneven and dangerous due to the potholes	17	14.0%
Creating a parking problem on the road	16	13.2%
Not going to use in the future because of the parking fees	12	9.9%
Requires a longer period than a free hour	11	9.1%
Waste of money	10	8.3%
Need to improve the public facilities now too	7	5.8%
Need to consider a discount scheme if using local businesses	6	5.0%
Annual pass required for local residents	4	3.3%
Looked more natural before the improvements	4	3.3%
Need better entrance/exit signs	3	2.5%
Very fair parking scheme	3	2.5%
Lack of parent and child parking / blue badge	2	1.7%
Unloading and loading a car is harder now	2	1.7%
Odd time to run a trial period	2	1.7%
Too easy for campervans to use	2	1.7%
Payment machine not always working	2	1.7%
Not boosting tourism	2	1.7%
Too many dogs on the beach	1	0.8%
Need a cash payment option	1	0.8%
No parking for large vans	1	0.8%

The individuals were asked about their views on the parking fees during the trial. **Figure 2** indicates what their views were and **Table 6** shows the comments 152 out of the 244 made.

Figure 2 : What do you think of the parking fees introduced during the trial period?

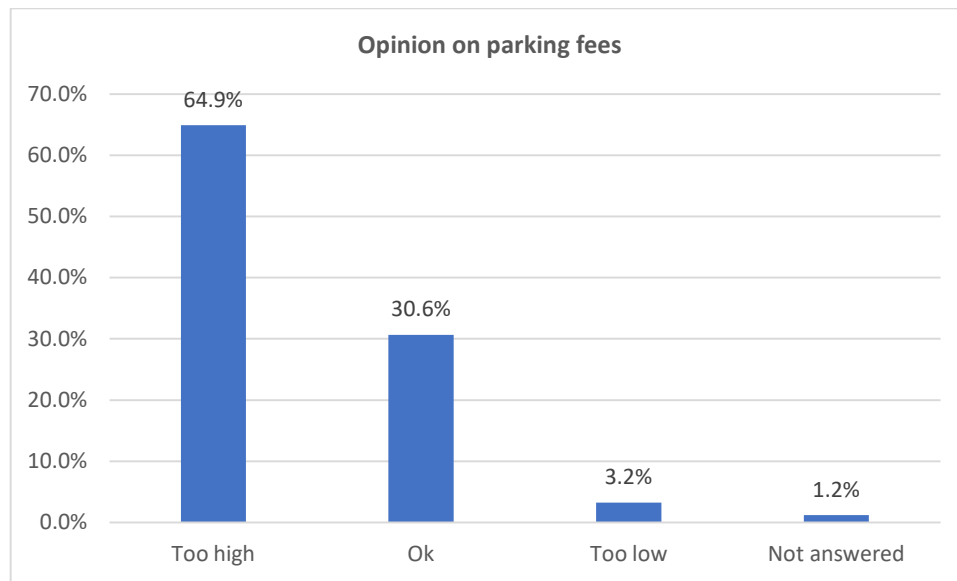


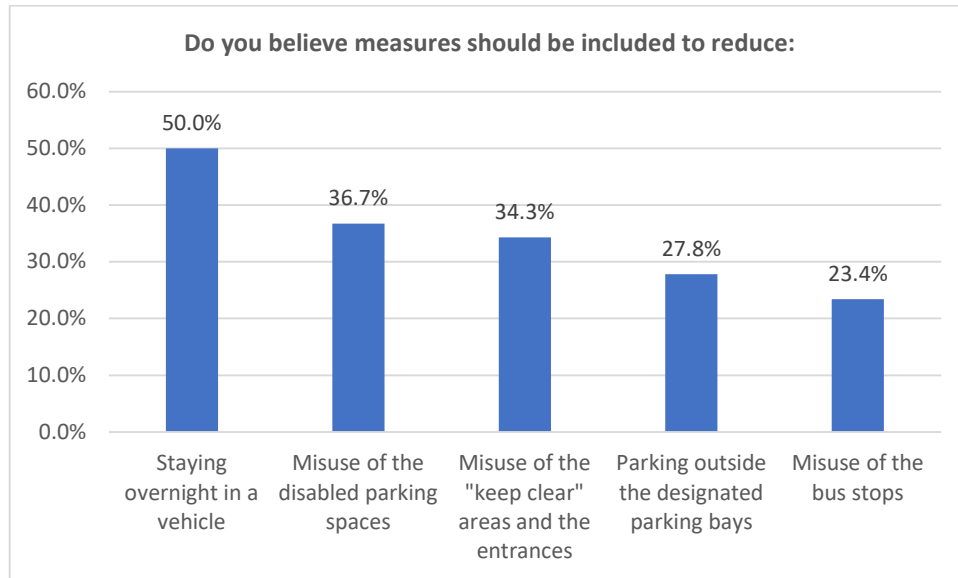
Table 6: Comments on individuals' views of parking fees

	Number	Percentage
It should be free to local people	37	24.3%
You should not charge fees at all	37	24.3%
Two hours should be free	26	17.1%
Agree with the new fees	20	13.2%
Businesses suffer	18	11.8%
I don't come here as often	16	10.5%
Need a season ticket which includes all Gwynedd car parks	10	6.6%
Too much parking on the road due to fees	9	5.9%
Car park design is not in keeping with the environment	7	4.6%
The charging period should not be increased e.g. outside the holiday season	6	3.9%
Need to charge fees on those who park overnight	3	2.0%
Car park must be monitored	3	2.0%
Signs need improvement	2	1.3%
The area must be kept clean and tidy if charging fees	2	1.3%

1.4 Questions for Individuals and Businesses

As the Council will consider arrangements for the future management of the site it was asked whether steps should be taken to mitigate some issues. Of the 248, 50% agreed there should be measures to stop vehicles staying overnight.

Figure 3: Site management arrangements



It was asked what impact the improvements and parking fees could have on the Welsh language and the opportunities for use within the community. 41.9% of respondents believed the changes would cause a neutral effect. Respondents had an opportunity to comment further on this. 58 people commented further, where 24.1% of them thought there was no impact and the remaining 75.9% thought fewer locals / Welsh speakers would visit Dinas Dinlle.

Table 7: Impact of changes to Dinas Dinlle car park on the Welsh language

	Number	Percentage
Positive impact	28	11.3%
Some positive impact	27	10.9%
Neutral	104	41.9%
A little negative impact	24	9.7%
Negative impact	60	24.2%
Not answered	5	2.0%
	248	100.0%

Similarly, we asked what impact the parking fees would have on socio-economically disadvantaged people. 63.7% thought it would have a negative impact on them. Again, they had the opportunity to comment further, with 102 choosing to do so. Of those, 82.4% thought it was going to be harder for low-income families to have a day at the beach, 9.8% thought there would be no impact and 7.8% thought that families would be able to park in the car parks further along the beach.

Table 8: Number of full-time and part-time employees per sector

	Number	Percentage
Positive impact	8	3.2%
Some positive impact	4	1.6%
Neutral	27	10.9%
A little negative impact	49	19.8%
Negative impact	158	63.7%
Not answered	2	0.8%
	248	100.0%

Conclusions

In terms of conclusions, the main findings are as follows:

- There were 248 respondents to the survey, 244 individuals and 4 businesses.
- 188 (77.0%) had visited the Dinas Dinlle car park during the trial period.
- 107 (43.9%) reported visiting Dinas Dinlle at least once a week
- Up to 2 hours was the most popular stay in the car park with 115 (47.1%).
- 111 (45.5%) reported having had a good or very good experience using the car park, while 56 (23.0%) reported having had a poor or very bad experience.
- 36 (29.8%) believed there were fewer parking spaces since the car park was adapted.
- 29 (24.0%) thought the car park looked much better and was more convenient.
- 161 (64.9%) thought the parking fees introduced were too high during the trial period.
- 37 (24.3%) believed parking should be free for local people.
- 37 (24.3%) believed the Council should not charge fees at all for parking in the Dinas Dinlle.
- 124 (50.0%) agreed vehicles parking overnight in the car park should be controlled.

Appendix A – Characteristics of respondents

Specify your gender

	Number	Percentage
Man / Male	70	28.7%
Woman / Female	144	59.0%
I prefer not to say	30	12.3%
	244	100.0%

Age

	Number	Percentage
16 – 24 years	6	2.5%
25 - 34 years	37	15.2%
35 - 44 years	43	17.6%
45 - 54 years	46	18.9%
60 - 64 years	52	21.3%
65 - 74 years	27	11.1%
75 - 84 years	4	1.6%
I prefer not to say	29	11.9%
	244	100.0%

Welsh language ability

	Number	Percentage
Speak, read and write fluently	151	61.9%
Speak, read and write, but not very confidently	17	7.0%
Speaking, reading and writing – learning	27	11.1%
Speak, but don't read or write	7	2.9%
Can't speak or understand Welsh	7	2.9%
Other	15	6.1%
I prefer not to say	20	8.2%
	244	100.0%

Identity / Nationality

	Number	Percentage
Welsh	163	66.8%
British	31	12.7%
English	18	7.4%
Irish from Northern Ireland	1	0.4%
Scottish	1	0.4%
Other	11	4.5%
I prefer not to say	19	7.8%
	244	100.0%

Race

	Number	Percentage
White	203	83.2%
Asian	1	0.4%
Mixed / several ethnic groups	3	1.2%
Other	3	1.2%
I prefer not to say	34	13.9%
	244	100.0%

Religion

	Number	Percentage
Christian	86	35.2%
No religion	106	43.4%
Other	9	3.7%
I prefer not to say	43	17.6%
	244	100.0%

Which of these statements best describes you?

	Number	Percentage
Heterosexual / Straight	176	72.1%
Gay / lesbian woman	2	0.8%
Gay man	1	0.4%
Bisexual	3	1.2%
Other	10	4.1%
I prefer not to say	52	21.3%
	244	100.0%

Has your sexual identity changed from when you were born?

	Number	Percentage
No	184	75.4%
Yes	3	1.2%
I prefer not to say	57	23.4%
	244	100.0%

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

	Number	Percentage
Yes	22	9.0%
No	173	70.9%
I prefer not to say	49	20.1%
	244	100.0%