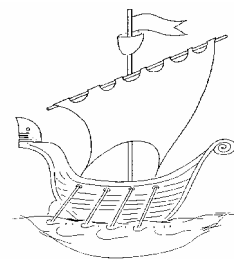


Whitchurch on Thames Parish Council



1 Battens Farm Cottage
Ermin Street
Lambourn Woodlands
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 7TN

10th November 2009

Dear Geoff

Concessionary toll

The Whitchurch Parish Council would like to ask the Bridge Company to reconsider our previous requests to have a concessionary rate for bridge crossings that applies to Whitchurch and Goring Heath residents.

This has been dismissed in the past as it was considered too difficult to administer and open to abuse.

Now that we all use swipe cards we believe that it would be relatively straight forward to set up. Whitchurch residents could produce their driving licenses which would have their address and post code on it and be given a reduced crossing charge on their card or more crossings per £10. The parish boundary of Whitchurch and Goring Heath is quite clear and the addresses easily recognised by the staff when the cards are purchased or topped up.

Perhaps if you were planning to increase the concessionary charge to say 17p you would be willing to make this 14p for Whitchurch and Whitchurch Hill residents and 20p for other regular users thereby not reducing your revenue overall.

As you are already aware we consider that the residents of Whitchurch and Goring Heath are a special case as we have to cross the bridge to access all our services. Woodcote and Pangbourne do not have to cross the bridge for essential services.

We would be grateful if this request could be seriously considered for a number of reasons:

- You have just won a very substantial increase in the tolls at the public inquiry which is very unpopular in the Village.
- You want to maintain a good relationship with the Village and this would be a very constructive way of showing that you can listen and respond to our views.

- It will be very important to the WBC to have the support of the Village during the reconstruction of the bridge as it is going to be a difficult time for everyone.
- The swipe card should make this proposal relatively simple to administer
- The possibility of abuse is much reduced as each person only has one card and you do not allow us to fill them up by more than £10 a time.

We would be very grateful if you could give this proposal your serious consideration

Yours sincerely

J Wheeler

Joanne Wheeler
Parish Clerk