

Archived: 13 November 2020 10:13:25

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Mon, 9 Nov 2020 19:19:22

To:

Subject: Lack of Parking for Motorhomes in the Borders.

Sensitivity: Normal

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\cbpat3\q\CAUTION: External Email

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Local development plan COMMENTS

Lack of Parking for Motorhomes in the Borders.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have copied below an email I previously sent to scotborders.gov.uk which I believe was passed on to your Parking Dep.

I have looked at your Local Development Plan and I am unable to find any reference to improvements for the parking of motorhomes in the Borders.

As I explain below, by not improving this type of parking (called Aires in France), to welcome a huge group of tourists, you are missing out on a large slice tourist income.

Almost every village and town in France has an Aire around 6,000 with over 13,000 in Europe.

Campsites aren't in the places motorhomes go to explore, their locations are generally too remote, and too expensive with lots of services we don't need, minimum stays of 2-3 nights, and with unsuitable ground conditions in winter are usually closed from October to April, whilst motorhomes keep on rolling. We park we do not camp.

I do hope you will consider my proposal, should you wish I am willing to socially distance meet by phone or Zoom to offer any further information or help you may need.

Yours Sincerely,

Eddie Yarrow

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear Sir/madam,

My partner and I own a 6m 3.5 tonne motorhome and recently visited Hawick where we expected to park overnight in their Aire, (motorhome parking area), near the riverside.

Unfortunately, we picked a Friday and the spaces were needed for the Saturday market the following day.

As we were unable to find an overnight stop nearby, we phoned your help line displayed on the car park notice board. We did not want or need to use a campsite as we are self contained, simply an overnight/sleeping motorhome parking area such as the one in Hawick Town.

After spending about 20 mins on the phone it was clear the lady was unable to find anywhere in the Borders where we could park.

We then headed off to Jedburgh, where we had a few years ago, parked spending some time shopping and having meals out in the town. To our amazement when we arrived we were met with the sign above, and the same sign is in other car parks.

The sign clearly discriminates against motorhomes as a fair majority of them are 3.5 tonnes.

It also states no sleeping.

How do you prove that someone is sleeping in a court of law, especially if you can not see into a vehicle?

Even if someone has their eyes closed, you can not state they are sleeping by making an assumption.

Is there a special law in Scotland which allows a local council to present evidence on this presumption?

On seeing that sign, I again phoned your helpline and spent the best part of 40 mins with the help of a supervisor, trying to find an overnight parking space for motorhomes in the Border Region. They were not aware of any parking for motorhomes other than campsites that were probably full and dislike and refuse one night stays.

We were so disgusted, we decided to return home and are now reluctant to visit anywhere in the Border Region except Hawick Town where we know we are welcome and can park.

There are in the region of 280,000 registered motorhomes in the UK and then add all the motorhomes touring from Europe.

Is this the way to welcome thousands of motorhome visitors to Scotland, who spend on average £45 to £73 per day?

Do you have overnight /sleeping parking for motorhomes anywhere in the Border region?

The Borders are the gateway to Scotland and it appears that only Hawick Town assures motorhomes of a Scottish welcome.

Should you not be following Hawick Town's enlightened approach to welcoming motorhome visitors?

Yours Sincerely,

Edmund Yarrow

Which way is the right way?

How do we solve the problem of too many motorcaravans visiting our county?

The **Borders** Way or the **CAMpRA** Way?

Campaign group CAMpRA.org.uk believe there is a better and financially beneficial way to solve the problem. So, which would you choose?

The **Borders** Way

- Ban overnight sleeping in car parks even though you can park overnight
- Ban cooking in car parks
- Employ enforcement agency to patrol and check if occupants of parked vehicles are sleeping.
- Erect costly height barriers to prevent motorcaravans entering car parks.

Outcome

- Motorcaravans will almost certainly move from daytime parking area and park legally in the streets and in residential areas
- Motor-caravanners who cannot park in car parks with barriers, will either park at the side of the road or move to the next village.
- Height barriers prevent disabled campervan users, who need vans for transport, from parking
- Rubbish problems caused by revellers and night time visitors continue
- The current problems with fly tipping will continue
- Local businesses lose out on estimated £45 to £75 per day spent by motorcaravan owners
- Community losing out on potential revenue from overnight parking charges
- Taxpayers money being spent on enforcement instead of more rubbish bins etc

The **CAMpRA** Way

- Allow overnight parking in car parks that are not in residential areas
- Erect signs directing motorcaravans to car parks (see below)
- Charge £5 per night to park and sleep overnight in self-contained motorcaravan (no camping behaviour allowed – ie no BBQs, no chairs/tables, no awnings etc)
- Use the money generated from car park fees, and saved from enforcement costs, to provide waste emptying points (required every 4 to 5 days). At locations where there are toilets, there could be a small charge to use these, which can support public facilities threatened with closure
- Use money saved to improve on rubbish bins and collection services.

Outcome

- Motorcaravans will be directed to a safe parking area not on the streets
- Revenue will be generated to maintain these facilities
- Waste disposal points will generate revenue and stop illegal emptying of waste
- Occupation of car parks overnight has been proven to reduce anti social behaviour and rubbish
- Occupation of car parks overnight has been proven to STOP FLY TIPPING
- Staying overnight will support local shops and restaurants as the average spend of motorcaravan owners is estimated £45 to £75 per day
- Taxpayers' money can be spent on more rubbish bins and more emptying.
- Local businesses can generate further revenue by providing motorhome waste emptying points

Which would you choose?

CAMpra.org.uk



Welcome to
**Canongate
FREE PARKING**

MAXIMUM STAY 60 HOURS

- Please park only in a marked bay
- Please display a valid blue badge when parking in a disabled bay
- No trailers, caravans, horseboxes
- No camping, cooking, sleeping
- No vehicles over 3 tonnes

**PENALTY CHARGE NOTICE OF £40 CAN
BE ISSUED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE**

www.scotborders.gov.uk

The Scottish Borders Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Orders 2019

0300 100 1800

