

A reminder for those who don't know, the Walberswick Car Parks Ltd (WCPL) is a PLC. It has a Board of six volunteer Directors from the village, a Business Operations Manager who works year round and a team of parking assistants who work from April through September. 100% of WCPL's annual profit is covenanted to the Walberswick Common Lands Charity. In addition, WCPL pays annual rent to WCLC for the land. Our Annual Report is filed with Company's House and publicly available. The Directors and I are really proud of the work we do in providing parking in the village and being a large contributor to the WCLC.

We had another fantastic year in 2022 with our second highest Covenant paid to WCLC of just over £68,000. Part of this exceptional operating profit was that WCPL was a recipient of an one-off rate relief grant from East Suffolk District Council that came from left-over national covid funds for businesses. WCPL received it as we were ineligible for Covid relief in 2020.

We have have had a slow start to 2023 with the weather being much less good then usual meaning that the car parks have had many fewer visitors. We have used this time, however, to undertake important maintenance including replacing the Cliff Field fence, scraping the Cliff Field track and filling potholes. It is too early to tell what the Covenant will look like for 2023 but hopefully the weather will improve and we'll have a lovely summer. It is always our aim to keep costs low and to be able to contribute as much as possible to the village through the payment of the covenant as well as keeping the parking running smoothly and keeping things clean.

At the height of the 2022 summer, we started having some problems with our pay and display machines due to the '3G sunset' and issues with signal impacting the use of credit cards. The Directors and I are working together to consider the best ways to deal with these issues and looking into alternative means of collecting parking fees. We hope to be able to report more on this later in the summer.

We have an incredible group of wonderful attendants that work very hard to keep traffic moving smoothly, maximise parking spaces, provide information to visitors and keep the car parks clean. Issues with litter and dog bins is a constant issue for us. As I say every year- I need to mention how much I appreciate the attendants and all that they do.

I hope to continue to manage the car parks, I love working for such a vital part of the community to keep the village running smoothly, keep it clean and contribute such a large part to the Charity.

Victoria Cowley
Business Operations Manger