



Max.Bryant@nationaltrust.org.uk
Direct line: +44 787 6568817
16 March 2021

National Trust

Ms Denise Dickson
Head of Planning
Planning Department
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

Dear Ms Dickson,

Car Parking Congestion at the Giant's Causeway

Thank you for your letter of 17th January in which you advised that members of the Council's Planning Committee had requested that the National Trust look at ways of resolving the question of car parking congestion on roads around the Giant's Causeway.

I would like to stress at the outset that this is an issue which is also of significant concern to the National Trust. Over the years we have taken a number of actions which are within our control to play our part in addressing this challenge. These include providing information on our website and other publicity material, extending visitor centre opening times to spread visiting across the day, operating the park and ride service, and introducing variable messaging signage to provide drivers with advance information about parking availability.

However, the reality is that preventing parking on the roads around the Giant's Causeway is not within the National Trust's control and not something which we can solve alone. It is neither legal nor safe for Trust staff to direct or control traffic on the public road. We have liaised with all the relevant authorities, including PSNI, Department for Infrastructure Roads and the Council to work collaboratively to find a solution, and we will continue to do so. For example, one solution we have suggested for consideration is the introduction of a rural clearway on designated parts of the road and we would still like to see this explored further.

It is also important to stress that over the past two years there have been numerous occasions when there has been capacity in the National Trust car parks, the Railway car park, and also the unregulated temporary car parks in nearby fields, but cars have continued to park on the road. This leads to the conclusion that the issue of on road parking is not capacity and is not directly linked to the Trust's visitor experience admission charge.

Giant's Causeway & Carrick-a-Rede
Innisfree Farm
60 Causeway Road, Bushmills,
County Antrim, BT57 8SU
Tel: +44 (0)28 2073 3320
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

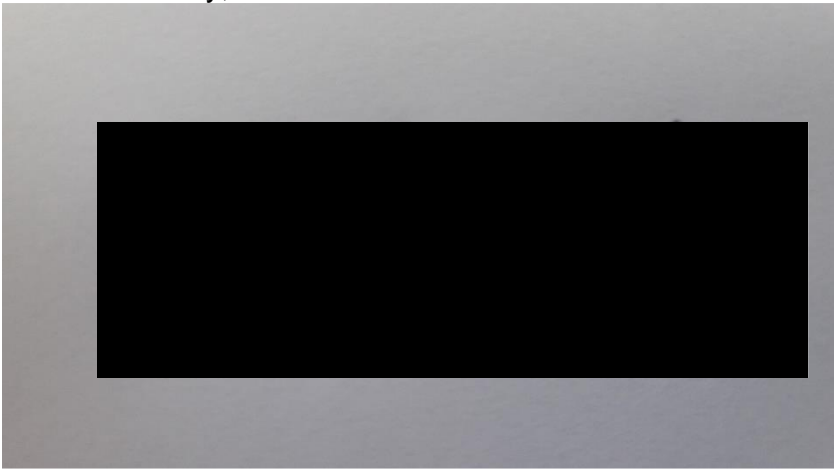
President: HRH The Prince of Wales
Regional Chairman: Dr Bob Brown OBE
Director for Northern Ireland: Heather McLachlan

Registered office:
Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 2NA
Registered charity number 205846

While writing I would also like to take the opportunity to express our disappointment that the Planning Committee opted not to take forward the recommendation from the Department for Infrastructure to implement an Article 4 Directive which would enable the Council to manage the location and number of temporary car parks in the vicinity of the World Heritage Site. We believe that this would play a part in an overall solution to the issue of traffic management in the area, and I hope that the Council will continue to keep this under review.

We are happy to continue to work with and meet with the Council and all the other key agencies in order to play our part in addressing this challenge and in the hope of identifying a shared approach to reaching a solution.

Yours sincerely,



Max Bryant
General Manager
Giant's Causeway and Carrick-a-Rede

Cont/d