

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

14 December 2010

**Item 5 – Public Participation
Wiltshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 – Car Parking Strategy (item 6)**

Statement from Dr Brian Batten

There is increasing concern in the local community that charges are to be introduced for using this facility. I wish to add my personal objection to those of others with the earnest hope that the proposals will not be voted through.

Most of us are only too well aware that free parking is a luxury that we have enjoyed for a long time and must rate as a great attraction for those who travel from surrounding villages. Amesbury is a small commercial centre with essential services as well as a few shops which are finding it harder and harder to remain solvent with the increase in competition from large outlets.

I can't help thinking that the additional costs involved with the installation and running of a meter system in such a small car park would result in diminishing returns and that the present funding arrangements should be continued presumably through the rating system.

I sincerely hope that the council will decide against introducing a charge for the use of the car park.