

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

14 December 2010

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

Statement from Ms Victoria Morris

I am dismayed to hear about the proposed parking charge increases that I have read about in today's Gazette and Herald.

We are encouraged to spend locally on our high streets which many of us enjoy doing and wish to continue doing so. Unfortunately sometimes I feel Wiltshire Council is unwelcoming to visitors to the high street with their unfair charging. I learnt the hard way Christmas shopping in 2009 that you can only park on Marlborough High St for 2 hours (having unloaded my child and pushchair and then gone to the ticket meter). On my second visit I tried to park in the Waitrose car park having been told you can park there for longer. What I found appalling was you charge more per hour for the visitor who stays 3 hours compared to staying 1 or 2 hours. The higher charges for a longer visit sent me a very clear message of not being welcome and that Wiltshire Council did not wish me to shop locally.

The council must remember Wiltshire's high streets are competing with out of town shopping centres which offer free parking with bigger more child friendly loading spaces. It is not the fact that I object to paying for parking I object to being penalised because I take longer than 2 hours to shop. There are many people who can't whizz round and need longer time including the elderly and those of us with children in tow.

I understand money is short and parking charges are probably a good revenue earner for the County however please make charges fair eg the same hourly rate however long you park in the shopping car parks (not the commuter car parks). Do not penalise those of us who need longer when shopping.

Please consider these thoughts when discussing changes to parking charges.