

JOHN GLEN M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS

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Dick Tonge
Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
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13th December 2010

Dear Dick

I am writing to you to make you aware of grave concerns about the possible impact of the forthcoming vote on parking charges on Amesbury Town Centre.

A number of retailers are under threat of imminent closure and, with the recent opening of a brand new out-of-town Tesco, the pressures on Amesbury's shopkeepers are particularly acute – and only likely to intensify.

Amesbury is already being squeezed by the wider range of facilities in nearby Andover and Salisbury and retaining affordable parking in the town is integral to the viability of its local retail offerings.

I believe that there is a case to be made for a careful assessment of the impact on diminished income from business rates that will occur as a result of the deterioration of the local economy in Amesbury's.

As the local MP, I hope that both local representatives and the council as a whole will be able to avoid applying a blanket increase in charges to a town where the trading community is experiencing such intense pressure.

I am informed that Amesbury Town Council has expressed an interest in exploring the provisions of the new localism bill with a view to purchasing the town's main car park in



order to shelter its retailers, at least in the short-term, from hikes in parking charges – an explicit recognition of the uniqueness of Amesbury's retail landscape.

David M. Cairns

PP **John Glen MP**
Member of Parliament for Salisbury

cc Jane Scott
Fred Westmoreland
John Noeken
Andy Rhind-Tutt