

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

14 December 2010

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

Statement from Mr Brian Crook, Devizes

I am writing to you as a resident of our lovely, happy market town of Devizes. The current one hour parking system in the market square is terrific, beneficial to both shoppers and to the commercial interests of Devizes, loved by all the Devizes community and admired by many visitors from outside.

To cut this to half an hour would be an act of deliberate self-inflicted vandalism.

Let me give an example. You want to post a letter or parcel at the post office. You park in the Market Square. It takes 10 minutes to walk up the Little Brittox, the Brittox and Maryport Street to Sainsbury's on the corner of Monday Market Street, and right through into the back of the shop to the post office counters. There is always a queue there, so it's several more minutes waiting for a till to become free. Then you have immediately to get back to your car, if its not too late already. There is absolutely no time to pop into Boots to get your prescription, or to the bank to get some cash, or buy the bread, or chat to anyone you meet in town, as we all do, and which makes this such a happy community.

Meanwhile more and more cars are circulating in Long Street - High Street - Sheep Street - Market Square - New Park Street, having had to move prematurely before getting their jobs done, looking for parking spaces; more traffic, more noise, more pollution, more short tempers, more pressure and anger - just the opposite of what we want to create.

In sum, Devizes' current one hour Market Square parking limit is perfect, and hugely valued by our happy community. I ask you most sincerely not to destroy what we all want to retain, the facility that makes Devizes such a special, cheerful and friendly town.