

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**14 December 2010**

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

**Statement from Mr Tony Morton**

I have only just been able to read the Gazette & Herald, and find it extraordinary that the first we should know about changes in parking charges should be from the newspaper, with less than 24 hours to comment. Having been away, even if I had been at home, this is quite unacceptable notice for sensible comment.

There is no logical reason why charges should be common across the county. It may appear tidier, but it is completely at odds with government policy of local initiatives.

Since coming to Devizes 14 years ago one of the things which has been a real plus has been the ability to park for up to an hour in the Market Square or elsewhere without charge. As a result we go into Devizes for many tasks for which we might go elsewhere. Although many of these tasks might be complete in 30 minutes, there are many occasions when we do a number of things and take longer than this. Local businesses will suffer, and in turn so will we as they close their doors. This is quite different from asking people to pay for services such as libraries or leisure centres, where THEY get a direct benefit, here we are dealing with the viability of the town, and although Wiltshire may appear to benefit that will be at the expense of the economy on which it depends. It also seems extraordinary to double all day charges for those working in the town. This might be justified if there was such demand on facilities that people couldn't find space, but should be considered on the basis of supply and demand. Shop workers and other employees in Devizes are not paid the same wages as those in every other town in Wiltshire, so that it is absurd that the argument should be that every worker in Wiltshire should pay the same to park. This is going in the face of the present government policy of 'localisation' and is dreadful.

**THERE IS NO LOGICAL REASON TO APPLY COMMON CHARGES  
ACROSS THE COUNTY.**