

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

14 December 2010

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

Statement from Mr F A Bush

I understand the Wiltshire County Council will be considering on the 13th December the imposition of parking charges in the main car park in Amesbury. As you are, I trust, already well aware there are a significant number of empty retail premises in the centre of Amesbury with little apparent prospect of any of them being filled. Indeed the likelihood is that more will follow, not least because of the new Tesco store recently opened out of town on the London Road.

Given the worrying increase in the “ghost town” aspect of Amesbury and the old Co-op building, empty now for some years, is the worst but not only eye soars, it behoves us all, and particularly local and County councils, to encourage as much as possible the retention and, indeed, regeneration of shops in the centre of town. The imposition of parking charges in the main car park will undoubtedly have entirely the opposite effect with more and more people shopping at out of town stores where parking is free. The, I suspect, relatively limited revenue from parking charges from a diminishing number of shoppers will be more than offset by the seriously adverse effect on the centre of Amesbury.

This is not an isolated view and I know my concerns are widely shared in Amesbury. I will, however, let other speaks for themselves. I would therefore ask that your Council listens to the local population and considers very carefully the impact and wider issues of introducing parking charges. The cons greatly outweigh the pros and there is no question that, in the overall scenario, the proposal should be dropped.