

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

14 December 2010

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

**Statement from Mr John Coleman for and on behalf of Amesbury
Redevelopment Partnership**

Ref: Car Parking Charges at Amesbury

I am writing to you as landlords of the retail units at Stonehenge Walk, Amesbury.

We are appalled at the stance of Wiltshire Council in its proposals to charge for parking at Amesbury. In the current economic climate and the state of the businesses in the centre of Amesbury with the recent opening of Tesco's out of centre supermarket, imposing car park charges will sound the death knell for town centre businesses.

As landlords we have in the past week lost two tenants whose businesses have been destroyed by the opening of Tesco's and the associated road works at the crossroads at Countess Road/High Street. These road works were deliberately delayed by Tesco's and their actions have had the predicted outcome. The prospect of car parking charges at Amesbury was in part instrumental in their final decision to close their businesses. (Amesbury Baby Care Centre and Wildcardz.) As a secondary trading position we are particularly susceptible to adverse trading conditions and will soon have 4 empty units, which will adversely affect both the local economy and Wiltshire Council's own income. We would suggest that any income generated by car parking charges will be more than offset by loss of revenue through business rates etc.

You will also be aware that Crouch's greengrocers have closed this week, which is a town centre business in a prominent trading position.

I would request that this letter be read to both the Amesbury Town Council and the Wiltshire Council before any decision is taken.