

**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 Dee La Vardera, Devizes**

I have just read the article in this week's Gazette & Herald about the proposed rise in car parking charges across Wiltshire. Whilst I understand the need to raise more revenue in these difficult times I think the level of the increase is outrageous.

I work for Age UK Wiltshire in Devizes and use the car park three days a week and a 93% increase in the all day charge is unacceptable. I can understand raising it to £3.50 for example or incrementally over a period of time.

I am shocked at the Calne proposal which amounts to a 336% increase. Many people park there in order to take the bus into work in Chippenham which saves more cars on the roads and alleviates the parking problems in Chippenham. How will these proposals affect businesses - particularly small ones which don't have the luxury of large car parks like the supermarkets?

I also fear - wearing my Age UK Wiltshire hat, that older people will be further penalised by the cost - whether all day or, in particular, in the former Free Zones, where they will need to pay, even if they are just popping in for basic shopping needs or a doctors' appointment for example. The car is not a luxury in a rural area and is a life line for many.

I trust you will reconsider the amount by which you increase car parking charges and fix them at a more modest level to start with.