

SDF/L2369

Please Ask for: Simon Fisher
Direct Line: 01380 722346
Email SimonFisher@devizes-tc.gov.uk

HKB/TRO/WILTS

3 February 2011

Sustainable Transport Group
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

Dear Sirs

Eastern Wiltshire Off Street Parking Places Orders 2011

At a recent meeting of the Town Council, revisions to the order for off street parking orders for Devizes were considered.

The Town Council is deeply concerned at the reduction of free parking within the Market Place, Devizes and disproportionate increase in parking charges on the following grounds:

- That the proposal to reduce free parking from 1 hour to 30 minutes was not included within the consultation process and, therefore, people were not able to make their representations prior to a Cabinet decision, rendering the process as flawed and undemocratic.
- That there was no consultation on the banding arrangements undertaken by consultants as to which band Devizes was allocated.
- That insufficient weight has been given to the views of Devizes Town Council which is a democratically elected local authority which has a mandate to make representations for the people of Devizes.
- That by reducing the permitted parking time in the Market Place the resulting natural increase in traffic movements will significantly raise the risk of accidents between those seeking parking spaces, pedestrians and other road users.
- That by reducing the permitted parking time the resulting natural increase in traffic movements will cause additional congestion within the Market Place resulting in queuing traffic.

There is no evidence that any party gains from the proposed alteration to off street parking arrangements for Devizes. The town will suffer economically due to the reduction in the flexibility for visitors that results from these proposals, whilst Wiltshire Council does not gain any revenue accompanied by an increase in the cost of policing with enforcement officers having to return more often.

Although not explicit about ticket machines, within schedule 1 Restrictions and Charges, there is a reference to "obtaining a ticket if applicable". Wiltshire County Council, Kennet District Council and Devizes Town Council worked effectively together as a partnership to refurbish the Market Place which resulted in a significant reduction in street clutter. If it is planned to introduce metres of any kind, this would be in direct conflict with the objectives of that scheme and would be fiercely resisted by Devizes Town Council. Additionally, the use of tickets would add to the cost of policing. The Town Council request that the text "(on obtaining a ticket if applicable)" be removed from the schedule where it refers to the Market Place.

The Town Council is extremely concerned that the increase in parking charges are disproportionate with any potential increase local residents are receiving in income and therefore they will impact most on the poorest in our communities. There are also fears that these new parking charges will influence shoppers decision to use out of town facilities with free parking, affecting the economic viability of the town.

Devizes Town Council strongly objects to the proposed Eastern Wiltshire, Off Street Parking Place Order 2011 and requests that they are reviewed before their implementation.



Yours faithfully
for Devizes Town Council

Simon Fisher
Deputy Town Clerk

CC Cllr Laura Mayes – Devizes Area Board Chairman
Cllr Mrs Jane Burton – Devizes East
Cllr Nigel Carter – Devizes North
Cllr Jeff Odd – Devizes South