## **Corsham Town Council**



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Our Ref: DJM/MAA/C29

Delwyn Burbidge Chief Executive North Wilts District Council Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER

1 March 2007

Dear Delwyn

## Proposed Introduction of Parking Charges for First Hour - Corsham

Following a meeting of our Transport Working Group on 27 February 2007, I write to strongly object to the planned introduction of parking charges in Corsham for the first hour.

The Town Council originally supported the introduction of parking charges on the basis of free parking for the first hour, due to the severe parking problems in the town at the time. Introducing such a charge in Corsham will discourage shoppers and visitors and have a knock on effect on onstreet parking in residential roads near the town centre.

When the introduction of charges was first considered we were assured that they were not being brought in as a revenue generator, but were in order to improve traffic management. To a large degree this has been successful with a system that works and that local people are largely happy with. We were promised improvements to the car parks, with better lighting for example. This has not happened in Corsham and there seems to be a reluctance to invest any money in the car parks.

The first hour free policy is vital to the town centre economy and if a change is introduced it will have a huge impact on local shops, including the main supermarket in the town.

Corsham Town Council urges North Wilts District Council to retain the one hour free parking in the town so that residents and shops do not suffer.

I look forward to your response

Yours sincerely

David J Martin TOWN CLERK

