

Appendix 3 Further representations from Cllr Allison Bucknell

I note that despite the 204 objections to charging for Blue Badge Holders, the intention is to go ahead with the original proposals without modification.

This still concerns me as we are effectively encouraging Blue Badge users to use “on street” parking areas or double yellow lines, where they can legally park for 3 hours.

Surely the double yellow lines are there for road safety purposes and to effectively push blue badge users out onto the road is not wise?

Not to mention that some blue badge users are not physically able and to fuff around getting wheelchairs out of cars on the side of the road because there is a 2 hour parking limit in the off road car park is not safe or humane.

I worry that the Equalities Impact Assessment does not pass muster and will bring about a challenge.

Please can a bit more thought go into this?

It is not so much the charging in some cases as the restriction on the length of time – people with mobility issues need longer to get about, even just to get to the machine to pay. This is simply not a fair way to treat people with disabilities.

In response Cllr Dr Mark McClelland :

Dear Allison

Thank you for writing to me and I do note your concerns about charging blue badge holders. I have read all the feedback provided regarding these proposals and broadly speaking the objections fall into two categories: those objecting to car parking charges / increases in town centres and those objecting to the introduction of charges for Blue Badge holders with some people objecting to both. I understand your main concern to be the introduction of charges for Blue Badge holders and the unintended consequences that may occur as a result.

The Blue Badge scheme helps disabled people park closer to their destination, it does not allow for free parking everywhere. These proposals bring us in line with many neighbouring authorities who already charge blue badge holders for parking. I do recognise that the option remains for free on street parking this is sometimes the most appropriate solution for disabled people. It is envisioned that the free, on street disabled parking bays would be more likely to be used than double yellow lines as they are generally closer and more accessible. However, I do recognise that wide disabled bays are the preferred parking location for many and will ensure that our parking team do continue to ensure that there is sufficient provision in our car parks.

I know that you will be aware that we no longer pass on the convenience charge for using MiPermit to any resident, and parking charges remain the same however you pay. The MiPermit App or telephone number is a convenient way to pay for everyone. It means that you can pay for a short time and if you find that you need longer you can easily extend your stay. I recognise that

introducing these charges for blue badge holders will mean that some people will need to learn how to use the MiPermit system for the first time. It is a straightforward system and while the app does make it very much easier it is also possible to pay for parking using a phone without the app. It is also possible to purchase a season ticket for car parks if that assists any of your residents who make regular trips to specific car parks.

It is not the intention to make things more difficult for disabled people, or anyone else. I have fully considered the position that we are in, reviewed the objections and the recommendations, and have decided to implement the proposals without amendment.