



STATEMENT TO FULL COUNCIL
28th February 2012

We are dismayed to find that yet again Wiltshire's commitment to a funding stream for public transport is being challenged.

No one disputes that paying more for parking is unpopular, especially during a recession. We all need to urgently debunk the strongly held belief that poor retail performance is related to car parking charges.

The council's own evidence, drawn from experience from here and elsewhere, is very clear: this is a myth that we should not be revisiting either because the income falls short at the current time, or because it's unpopular.

We argue that it is essential to adhere to this policy for three reasons:

First: fees from unsustainable modes, such as cars, are essential to fund sustainable modes, such as public transport.

Second: the policy of charging encourages people to consider other travel options.

Finally: there is no such thing as free parking. Somebody has to subsidise it.

Rather than cutting corners, we must ensure that the principle of parking revenue for investment in buses is preserved and enhanced. This is a largely rural county and these buses and taxi buses are lifelines with potential to meet greater need.

Instead of undermining the bus network, please help us campaign to market the network sensibly, thereby making the most effective use of scarce resources. This includes publishing timetables of buses subsidised by this county!

Jasper Selwyn
Chairman
Association of Devizes Passengers

