

APPENDIX 2

Objection

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Comment Received</u>	<u>Officer Comment</u>
1	<p>Mr M Bolton Seend SN12 6HQ</p> <p>I am writing to comment on the experimental parking arrangements in New Park Street. I live in Seend and visit Devizes typically a couple of times a week and usually park in New Park Street.</p> <p>This scheme removed approximately ten parking spaces and in all my visits since the experiment started I have only once seen a bus parked in the dedicated spaces and that was one of Wiltshire Council's vehicles.</p> <p>One of the objectives of this scheme is to encourage economic activity within the town but the removal of all these parking spaces seems to have the opposite effect. If I were a trader in Devizes, I would be very unhappy about the removal of parking facilities which are vitally important to attracting trade to the town. In recent times we have also suffered a reduction of the parking time allowed in the Market Place and lost several other parking places for disabled parking which seem to be underutilised.</p> <p>The cumulative result of these changes is to give the impression that Devizes is anti-car.</p> <p>I hope the New Park Street parking spaces will be restored at the end of the experiment.</p>	<p>The scheme has been developed following a request from the local community to improve facilities which assist in improving Tourism within the town, and particularly coach parking / drop off in close proximity of the Public Conveniences in West Central Car Park. Locating the facility in the car park was originally investigated; however, the impact on the parking provision and the cost associated with undertaking the physical amendments prohibited the progression of this suggestion.</p> <p>There is a surfeit of parking within Devizes Town Centre (either on-street or off-street) and the loss of approximately 10 parking spaces adjacent to a public car park is not considered detrimental to the viability of the town. The parking restriction is only applicable between the hours of 9am and 6pm, and outside of these times the bays remain available unrestricted.</p> <p>The existing bays are perceived locally to be well utilised by Coach and Bus Operators.</p>

Support

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Comment Received</u>	<u>Officer Comment</u>
S1	<p><u>Devizes Chamber of Commerce</u></p> <p>The designation of Devizes as a Coach Friendly Town was warmly welcomed by the retailers of the town and it's essential that this designation is retained. The extra footfall is essential to maintain the wide variety of independent and multiple outlets which attract shoppers to the town.</p> <p>Devizes has a high occupancy rate but we also have a casualty rate. In the last month three shops three shops have closed citing high business rates as their major problem. Nevertheless, there are new business opening on a regular basis.</p> <p>The increasing number of operators including Devizes in their schedules will bring considerable benefit to the continued success of the area.</p>	All comments in support of the proposal.
S2	<p><u>Devizes Area Tourism Partnership</u></p> <p>They were painted as a result of support of the Devizes Town Council and Devizes Area Board and were the final element to enable achieving the Coach Friendly Town Award from the Confederation of Passenger Transport. With the support of all related organisations, including Philip Whitehead, was achieved within a week of them being installed, making Devizes one of just 20 towns and cities. Many others have been trying for much longer, and I understand we broke records, especially as many had spent many thousands. We are in the process of the next annual Benchmarking study, but the results are not available yet.</p> <p>In the meantime I attach a collection of current quotations volunteered by representatives of key Devizes organisations, and 2 pages of images including the varied coaches now making use of Devizes, to the benefit of the local economy. None of us are near the bays on a regular basis, or with time or camera poised, to take potentially many more. The benefit should however start to reflect in toilet and coach parking revenue for Wiltshire Council? I could have obtained many more quotations, if for example approaching the key restaurants that have supported the project. I have had no negative reactions, it has been more how we can improve promotion to Coach Operators. The work to promote is by volunteers having no direct benefit from the outcome, and the minimised expenditure has been about £800, gleaned from different sources, Devizes Town Council, DCAP and volunteers. With a larger budget more could be achieved, and urgently, as coach operators are currently planning for 2015.</p>	

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	Ironically by us bringing to the attention in previous meetings the Wiltshire Council hosted Wiltshire Market Towns meeting this Wednesday has Coaches as a key Agenda item for “Initiatives & Events That Can Benefit Towns” (Agenda attached). Interesting that having not helped Devizes, VisitWiltshire are then apparently taking the CPT speaker around to other Wiltshire towns, to look for potential, so there must be benefit?	
S3	<u>Devizes Guardians</u> Devizes Guardians are delighted that the provision for dropping off coach passengers has increased visitor numbers at key attractions. With the wider registration of this facility with coach operators, we look forward to greater numbers in 2015.	
S4	<u>Devizes Town Council</u> The Town Council, we fully support the retention of the coach drop off bays on New Park Street, Devizes.	
S5	<u>Devizes Community Area Transport Group (sub group of the Area Board)</u> The CATG unanimously agreed that the coach stops are being used regularly and have been successful and fully support it becoming permanent.	