

**Cabinet  
28 May 2008**

**Parking - East Sussex County Council proposals for revised on-street pay parking in the town centre and wider area**

**Cabinet is invited to support and endorse the objection that has been sent to East Sussex County Council by Councillor David Tutt, Leader of the Council. Councillor Tutt's letter of objection is set out below:-**

"As I have done on previous occasions I wish to register my objections to the County Council's "Pay to Park" proposals. I do so both as a member of the County Council and as Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council. Over the past 2 years there has been no County Council issue which has demanded as much of my time in terms of : e-mails, letters, phone calls and personal representation from members of the public and local businesses than the "pay to park" plans. I have listened to all of the representations made and believe that on a balance of 4:1 local opinion opposes, not just the plans, but the entire concept of introducing "pay to park" to the town. The reasons for this are as follows:

**Businesses**

- Both The Chamber of Commerce and The Federation of Small Businesses alongside many individual businesses who have taken the trouble to contact me, oppose the plans as they believe that many businesses will have to close if they are introduced. They say this not only because they fear losing trade to areas which do not have charges but also because they fear losing staff. Eastbourne is a high cost, low wage economy. Many businesses can only continue by paying at, or close to the minimum wage. Many also rely on part-time staff to operate, but if such staff, travelling in from out-of-town estates have to pay the proposed charges it will become uneconomical for them to continue to work. This will impact on both their own finances and also have repercussions for the economy of the town.
- The hoteliers are opposed to the charges as the current character of the town, which includes the ability to park on the seafront for free and attracts many visitors, will be lost.

**Local Residents**

- Many local residents are concerned that these charges will make their already difficult struggle to keep up with rising inflation, impossible. Many have complained to me that the County has failed repeatedly to

consult with them by limiting the consultation to those within the proposed charging area.

- Some residents within the proposed charging zone have told me that they have previously supported the scheme as they were under the belief that their resident permit would guarantee them a parking space, this is clearly not the case.
- People see the proposed charges not as something which will benefit the town, but simply as a new "stealth tax" to be imposed by a County Council who are out of touch with local views and who refuse to listen to feedback from local residents.

In conclusion, allow me to state that I am not in favour of illegal parking but believe that enforcement can be achieved without "pay to park". In both my role as a County Councillor and Leader of the Borough Council I am committed to working to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

David Tutt