



Stratford Liberal Democrats Press Release

Tory parking charge increase challenged

Liberal Democrats in Stratford have expressed concern about the decision by the Conservative Cabinet of the District Council to push up car park charges in Stratford and challenged their claim in a Council press release that, 'Car parking charges in Stratford-upon-Avon increased by only 1%'.

The decision on charges was taken at a Cabinet meeting on 27th, when Option D (see page 77 of agenda papers) was chosen. In short stay car parks the cost of parking for 1 hour will rise from 70p to £1-00, whilst 2 hours will increase from £1-30 to £2-00.

Cllr Hazel Wright, Leader of the Lib Dems on the District Council, said, 'these are huge rises, well above the rate of inflation. How on earth can the Tories claim that this is only a 1% increase? It won't feel like 1% when you're putting your coins in the machine.'

It's not clear whether the Conservatives are trying to force people to use the park and ride or whether this is just to raise money. Either way, these are difficult times for local businesses and charges at this level will do nothing to encourage people to shop in Stratford, as well as making it difficult for residents to access services. When on-street parking charges were introduced, to start with there was a free period, recognising the need to allow residents to pop in to town. Then the Tories removed the free period and put up the on-street charges, and now they're forcing up car park charges as well'. She added, 'the Tories seem to regard the residents of Stratford and those who work there as an easy source of cash'.

On the proposals for the market town car parks, Hazel added, 'we're glad that, following a public outcry, the Conservatives have changed their minds about charging to use car parks in the market towns. Unfortunately, the wording of the proposal they agreed made it clear that this is only 'at this stage', leaving the door open for them to bring in charges at a later date.'

More information:

Peter Moorse 01789 269630