



2 December 2010

Re: Cornwall Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2011 - consultation response

Dear Kate,

Thank you for your letter of 3 November 2010 inviting opinions on the proposed off street parking places order 2011. The three organisations signing this letter, Truro City Council, Truro Chamber of Commerce, and Totally Truro (Business Improvement District) Ltd, are unanimous in the views which are outlined below.

Recognising that car parks present an integral element of the transport and access infrastructure for any town, and for Truro in particular, we feel that it is vital that an integrated car parking strategy includes traffic management strategies such as Park & Ride and income generators such as car parks, but that all elements *must* contribute to providing the optimum environment for conducting trade. In this context, the current proposals position Truro outside of the context of other Cornish towns (noting that many users of Truro's car parks do indeed travel from other Cornish towns), thereby subsidising other towns – this is not acceptable.

Therefore, we fundamentally and strongly object to the principle of *any* tariff increases at this time and to Truro being separated from all other Cornish towns in the proposed pricing regimes.

1 There is total opposition to any rise in charges

- There is no justification for any rise in the current economic climate – the proposal would see the charge for all day parking in Truro increase by up to 27% and evening parking by 43%
- There is no improvement of service proposed, leading us to conclude that Truro's car parks are being viewed by Cornwall Council as a 'cash cow'
- The proposal runs contrary to the Council policy of stimulating economic development and presents a serious risk to the economic stability of Truro - there are generally no wage increases at present which may result in working in Truro being unaffordable for those that have to travel to Truro by car
- The proposed increases will deter parking in car parks which will have a knock on effect to the already critical problem of on street parking
- We acknowledge that, whilst the majority of Truro car parking rates will increase, in some car parks there will be a slight decrease in charges and we welcome the standardising of short and long term hourly rates in Truro's car parks

2 There should be local management of the car parks; including charges

- Despite the large contribution that Truro makes to Cornwall Council receipts from car parking there is no representative from Truro on the Council's car park panel, which recommending the increased charges. Given the fact that Truro has been put in its own grouping, we find this unacceptable
- The increased revenues will not be spent in the City but subsidise expenditure across the county

- Car park charges need to reflect both the local economic environment and revenues need to be spent to support the best conditions for trade in that environment
- The charges should be determined locally

3 **There is no justification in separating Truro from other towns in the charging structure**

- The difference in proposed charges between Truro and other towns in the county cannot be justified - Truro cannot and should not subsidise other Cornish towns
- We feel that Truro car parking pricing structures should be aligned with other towns such as Penzance, Bodmin, Falmouth, Liskeard and St Ives.

Yours sincerely,



Ron Cooke
Mayor of Truro



Simon Hendra
Chairman Truro Chamber of Commerce



Neil Scott
Totally Truro Ltd