

Appendix 2 – ‘In time’ comments on proposals received during Formal Consultation stage.

Aberystwyth Business Club

The Business Club does not oppose changes to the Aberystwyth Seafront Parking Places & Charges, and sees a benefit in encouraging turnover on the promenade by introducing charges to park. It is the opinion of the Business Club that this will encourage more shoppers and tourists to the central areas of the town.

There is concern on where those business owners who do use the promenade currently for all-day parking will park, but this is off-set by the opinion that any other promenade in Wales would be chargeable to park on. It is also worth noting, that the extension to Maes yr Afon, and reduction in costs of season tickets is a welcome off-set to these changes on Aberystwyth promenade.

The Business Club feels strongly that charges on the promenade should benefit the local town, and would request that a portion of the revenue is given to Aberystwyth Town Council with an agreement with the Town Council that these funds are spent on town tidying or beautification (and not general Town Council business).

Ceredigion Disability Forum

As the nominated representative for Ceredigion Disability Forum, I submit our feedback to this consultation.

We generally support the proposal. We are delighted with the proposal that blue badge holders will be exempt from the requirement to pay for on-street charging and are also exempt from any limit on maximum period of stay.

We are glad to note that you recognise that the principle of charging for parking is not necessarily popular or accepted by all. We hope that this proposal will achieve the objectives listed in the consultation:

- Increased on-street parking turnover
- Anticipated increased trade
- Greater use of public transport
- Reduction in traffic congestion and improved traffic flow around traffic sensitive areas
- Promoting greater levels of active travel
- Reduce the amount of commuter parking on the promenade

Whilst we agree in principle with greater levels of active travel, this does have a detrimental effect on some members of the disabled community. Aberystwyth is not a very accessible town, due to the number of sloping streets. This means that some people completely rely on a vehicle to be able to access shops and services. It is essential that any promotion of active travel recognises this fact.

It would be ideal if the proposed parking charges coincided with the extension of Maesyrafon Car Park into the former Arriva Site. We are concerned that the new parking charges will result in congestion in other parts of Aberystwyth as people look for alternative, free parking spaces. Shortage of parking spaces inevitably results in abuse of disabled parking spaces. Greater enforcement against abuse of disabled parking spaces would be very helpful.

We would like to remind you that not all disabled people are eligible for a Blue Badge and wish to reiterate previous concerns about the difficulties that some disabled, and elderly, people have with using car parking machines.

We hope that the Council will be procuring a newer generation of parking payment machines that are easier to use. Please could you try and avoid machines that use dark grey writing on a light grey background; these are very difficult to read, particularly on sunnier days.

We also remind you that some disabled, and elderly, people find it far easier to use cash in parking machines. We note that some Councils, for example York Council and East Staffordshire Council, have agreed to maintain some cash payment machines for this reason. We would very much like to see Ceredigion Council consider a similar approach.

Whilst recognising that blind and severely visually impaired people will not be driving themselves, they may be buying the parking tickets for companions or carers. We would like to remind procurement officers that blind, and many visually impaired people find it extremely difficult or are totally unable to use payment machines.

You have kindly informed us that for customers who are deaf and require further assistance with 'pay by phone and app' parking machines there is the option to use the Relay UK service to contact to the company's customer service phonenumber.

Members of the Disability Forum have had multiple failed attempts with the Relay UK service over the years. The service is typically recommended by hearing people who do not have to rely on it. It is not a reasonable adjustment. Many deaf people cannot use it. It also discriminates against Welsh speaking deaf people, since the service is only available in English; and it is a barrier for deaf people who use BSL as a first language.