



Car parking in Keynsham

Dear constituent

Over recent weeks a large number of Keynsham residents have been telling me how unhappy they are about B&NES Council's decision to start charging people who are disabled to park in Keynsham's car parks. As you will know, before April 2008 these Blue Badge holders had been allowed to park in the town free of charge.

There has been a sense amongst Keynsham residents, whether they are directly affected or not, that this policy to begin charging people with disabilities to park in the town is distasteful and unjust, especially as B&NES already makes millions of pounds in profits from its car park charges. Whilst many people living in Keynsham choose to walk to the High Street when they go to the shops, to the bank, or to enjoy a cup of coffee, many Blue Badge holders simply do not have that option.

I have now discovered from the council that its so-called 'consultation' over the new policy was not a real consultation at all. Even the council itself admits it involved just one person. This suggests B&NES is oblivious of the strength of local opinion. So there is a need to properly seek local views on this issue. Whilst I believe B&NES will have to bow to the inevitable by scrapping these new charges, **I would really welcome your opinion.** This will help gauge the strength of feeling on both sides of the argument.

Some people may feel that starting to charge people who are disabled will raise money for the council to spend on other things. On the other hand some argue that instead of targeting some of the most vulnerable to raise money, B&NES should look to start saving council tax payers' money elsewhere such as the excessive and huge legal bills for the Bath Spa, for example.

Whatever your views I would be most grateful if you would please complete the short survey and return it to so that I can ensure the council is made aware of local opinion.

With best wishes

Dan Norris MP

Charges for parking in Keynsham car parks

Although it has not consulted local people B&NES Council has started charging Blue Badge holders to park in Keynsham car parks

1. Are you directly affected by this decision?

Yes No *If yes, please give details:*

2. Do you know someone who is directly affected by the decision?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate if this is a:

Family member Friend Neighbour Other (*please state*)

continued.....

3. Please indicate how you feel about the decision to make Blue Badge holders pay for parking

Please tick one

- Strongly agree with the new charges
- Agree with the new charges
- Don't know
- Disagree with the new charges
- Strongly disagree with the new charges ...

4. Thinking about the future, which of the following most closely matches your view?

Please tick one

- Blue Badge holders should continue to have free parking in Keynsham car parks ..
- Blue Badge holders should have free parking during 'off-peak' hours only
- Blue Badge holders should have free parking during peak hours only
- Blue Badge holders should pay to park
- Don't know

5. Thinking about **car parking charges in Keynsham generally** - for people who do not have a Blue Badge as well as those who do - which of the following most closely matches your view?

Please tick one

- Charges in Keynsham car parks should be scrapped altogether
- Charges in Keynsham car parks should be scrapped for Keynsham residents, but visitors to the town should pay
- Charges in Keynsham car parks should only apply to long-term parking: short stays (e.g. one or two hours) should be free
- The current situation should remain where everyone has to pay to park in Keynsham car parks, however long their stay
- Don't know

6. Please give any other comments about any of these questions below (continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

Thank you for your time.

First name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

_____ Post code _____

Mobile (or landline) _____ Email address _____

Now please send your completed form to **Dan Norris MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.**
Thank you.