



# Maker with Rame Parish Council

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16th November 2010

Cllr A Robertson  
Leader, Cornwall Council  
County Hall  
Treyew Road  
Truro  
Cornwall TR1 3AY

Dear Cllr Robertson,

## Re Parking Charges/Cawsand Car Park

### **Ref A – CC Letter T1010/kd dated 3 November 2010**

At the meeting of the Parish Council last week, there was an unprecedented attendance from anxious local residents who wished to express their concerns at the Cornwall Council's proposed increases in Car Parking charges. As well as from the twenty two residents, Parish Council members have received numerous other complaints. The meeting was also attended by Sheryll Murray MP, who had been approached with similar concerns.

After a presentation of the current situation by Cllr George Trubody, the members of the Parish Council debated the issues and requested that the following items be brought to your attention for urgent consideration.

1 The increase in charges from £55 to between £600-£800 pa is an unrealistic figure for locals to be able to accept. This appears to be more in line with London prices than a small rural village in Cornwall with our unique geographical and social factors totally disregarded.

2 Our Parish is a low wage area. There is a high proportion of pensioners on fixed incomes. How can a pensioner on an income of less than £10k be expected to pay a Car Parking charge of between £600-£800 p.a.? The proposed policy will exacerbate the plight of locals and young families who are already finding it difficult to live in the area of their birth thanks to the increased housing prices largely caused by the trend for holiday and second homes. We already have around 60% holiday homes in this area. The village was recently the subject of a television documentary, 'The Price

of Property' by Channel 4 which highlighted the difficulties local people face if they wish to live here.

3 There should be a positive encouragement to use car parks in this area, rather than, as has already been found in Cawsand, encouraging vehicle owners to park indiscriminately on the approach highways which are, in common in rural Cornwall, very narrow. We live in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and this indiscriminate parking is detrimental to the countryside and obstructs traffic. There are no other alternatives in our area. Increased charges, such as are being proposed, will mean that the existing car park will be largely empty whilst the surrounding roads and woodlands will be cluttered with vehicles. This is not pure speculation, we have already experienced this during holiday seasons. The proposed measures will be totally counter productive.

4 There is a strong feeling that this policy is to be regarded as a form of taxation with no account being taken of peoples' ability to pay. This is a 'Regressive' form of taxation and totally against those being adopted by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP

5 Lastly we believe that this flies in the face of 'Localism' which both Cornwall Council and Central Government are apparently so keen to promote. Nor is it consistent with the principles laid down in the 'Sustainable Communities Act'. It is unclear as to why the policies being proposed by Cornwall Council are diametrically opposed to those being employed by the Government.

Members appreciated the need for prudent financial control under the strictures placed by the current government but are concerned that a "one size fits all" approach to car parking charges across the county by Cornwall Council has been ill-advised and would request a review in the light of the previous points. Permanent residents are easily identified by their requirement to pay the full council charge.

I am sorry to report that the general feeling of the residents and members was that they had little confidence in the policies of Cornwall Council and your apparent inability to appreciate the difficulties of small communities such as ours. It is requested that the 'Residents Parking Permit' for Cawsand Car Park be re-instated forthwith

Yours sincerely

A R Hutchings

CC: Sheryll Murray MP  
Eric Pickles MP Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government  
G Trubody C Cllr  
Millbrook Parish Council  
Rame Peninsula Trust