

**A statement to ERYC Cabinet by the people and businesses
of Pocklington before the Cabinet meeting Tuesday 16th
March 2010**

Revised: 15/03/10, 6:00pm, Final Version

1. I would like to make a statement, prepared by Pocklington Town Council, on behalf of the residents and businesses of Pocklington.
2. The statement does not necessarily represent my views as an ERYC councillor but I feel it is my duty to bring to the attention of the Cabinet the feelings of the citizens I represent.
3. East Riding Councillors have seen with their own eyes the extent of the feeling against car parking charges in Pocklington as last year hundreds of people paraded in protest through the Town to the road show and delivered a petition to Councillor Temple containing thousands of signatures against the proposals.
4. The people, businesses and local voluntary organisations believe that the introduction of car parking charges in Pocklington will have a severe impact on the local economy and could change the whole character of the town centre. Free parking is available at two supermarkets in Pocklington (Sainsbury's and Somerfield's) and will be available at the new 'Aldi'. In addition Tesco's at Market Weighton offers free parking and is only 10 minutes drive away. The combined effect of this free parking is already a diversion from town centre trade; the imposition of charges for parking will further intensify this process.

5. The retail study that the Car Parking Panel used as a basis for their report was out of date and dangerously inaccurate compared to the actual situation in Pocklington. The report quoted that there were 4 retail premises unoccupied within the town centre when in fact a Pocklington Town Council survey revealed a total of 14 retail premises unoccupied. Although the situation is easing slightly there are still far more retail outlets unoccupied than the retail study showed.
6. The Car Parking Panel report stated that there is no 'one size fits all' policy to car parking within the ERYC and we agree – but this is precisely the approach the Car Parking Panel took to arrive at their conclusions.
7. We believe that car parking and charging is an issue that must involve local communities and local situations – this should not be top down policy making but should be a bottom up consultation to arrive at recommendations that fit into local needs and concerns whilst attempting to meet ERYC budgeting expectations. This approach must take into account all factors not just the need for ERYC to protect budgets.
8. We also believe that the panel did not look at enough alternatives to car parking and charging within the East Riding of Yorkshire (ERY) – there are numerous ideas that have been tried throughout the UK and indeed Pocklington Council and The Network of Local and Parish Councils have suggested ideas that were not even considered within the Car Parking Panel's final report.

9. Some ERYC councillors have suggested that the introduction of car parking charges would free up car parking places within Pocklington that are tied up with residents that park all day and commute to York, Hull and other places. If this is a genuine concern then why is there a whole year car parking pass available for 2 of the car parks in Pocklington.

10. If we are to have some input and joined thinking into the Local Transport Plan currently being reviewed and if we are concerned about traffic on the A1079, and we believe ERYC should be since this A road is listed as one of the most dangerous and under funded major roads in the country – then we should be *encouraging* residents to use their cars less and commute using public transport for the benefit of us all and they should not be penalised for doing so.

11. The nature of how Pocklington has evolved over the decades as a thriving market town means there are many houses, flats and rented rooms with no off street parking and these residents rely on the streets to find places to park their cars. It is already a problem due to new terrace properties being built with no or inadequate off street parking facilities. The introduction of charges in the existing car parks will make this problem much worse. This will increasingly be a problem for the residents but will not be appreciated by County Hall.

12. Regarding the road shows held throughout ERY – Pocklington councillors attended all but one of these and would comment that the road shows were not consultations but were there to sell the proposals of the Car Parking Review panel. There were no displays of alternative ideas or ways of raising funds and there were no

presentations being given by ERYC councillors or officials in attendance other than the Car Parking Review Panel recommendations. It was a single idea promotion to convince the population.

13. There have been protests all over ERY against these proposals. The Town Council has seen the notes from all the road shows (obtained by a Freedom of Information request) and they contain mainly comments against the proposal and very few comments in favour of the imposition of car parking charges.
14. East Riding council has also received petitions and other documents containing over 40,000 signatures. A massive rejection by the people the council represents against these proposals.
15. The road shows could have been a creative consultation involving and inviting each local community to join in the debate and to offer alternative proposals.
16. In the coming years it will be vital that town and parish councils help ERYC to deliver services with less and less resources as the impact of the recession and shortage of funds begin to impinge upon local services. It will be essential that all authorities work together - this review has been extremely divisive - East Riding council has tried to divide and conquer by offering reduced charges in some areas and introducing charges in other areas.
17. It has badly damaged the image of ERYC in the eyes of ordinary residents and reinforced views that The Council imposes and do not

consult and doesn't care about the feelings and views of local councils and residents.

18. Times are going to be very hard over the next few years East Riding of Yorkshire Council will not be able to do everything the residents think they should - you are going to need the help of local town and parish councils - by rejecting these proposal and proposing a more inclusive review East Riding Council would be going some way to rebuilding relationships with the citizens of the East Riding and prove that they are indeed listening and considering their views.

19. In conclusion the people of Pocklington ask the cabinet to reject the car parking review recommendations in full and propose that the cabinet form a new review panel to incorporate local representatives to re think the whole issue of car parking charges; the impact on local residents and businesses, the impact on local transport and to examine all options not just the option of raising cash.

20. Thank you for your time.