

11<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Mrs Liz Banner  
Service Manager  
Property & Facilities  
South Kesteven District Council

Grantham

Dear Mrs Banner

I write with reference to the Notice in the Grantham Journal regarding the car parking charge increase as from 3<sup>rd</sup> January in the Welham Street to a short stay tariff.

I am extremely concerned as to the effect it will have on people like myself who buy a season ticket which brings the comfort of knowing there is a safe place to leave one's car during the day without having to clog up the locality trying to find somewhere to park it. Not only that, buying a season ticket makes working in Grantham, from my point of view, more affordable.

have a 20 mile drive each way and if I had to spend £40 a week to park on top of the fuel costs, I would seriously have to consider whether working in Grantham is viable any more. I certainly don't have the time or inclination to drive around to find somewhere to park, clogging the streets, wasting fuel and polluting the atmosphere. The streets are busy enough at peak times without having the likes of me crawling along trying to park. Not only that, the likelihood of an accident occurring as a result of a large number of people hunting that elusive slot will increase enormously, straining the budget in other ways.

Surely, if the Council are desperate to increase revenue, they could find a solution that will allow the existing regular customers to use the car park at a cost that they can afford, while still obtaining revenue from the casual customers at a higher rate? What's the point of having a car park that no one can afford to use? I have noticed that the car parks at the station are usually quite empty whilst the streets surrounding it are crammed with cars, encouraging vandalism and accidents waiting to happen.

On a more wider note, how will increasing short stay charges to £8.00 per day encourage people to come to Grantham to shop – the high street is suffering in this economic climate as it is, without losing trade in this discouraging way.

I hope that a way forward can be found to keep everyone happy.

Yours sincerely 

11 November 2010

Mrs Liz Banner  
Senior Management  
Property & Facilities  
SKDC  
St Peter's Hill  
Grantham  
Lincolnshire NG31 6PZ

Dear Sirs

**Car Park Season Ticket**

I read in the Grantham Journal last week that SKDC have given notice of an application to increase parking charges in Welham Street from £3 per day to £8 per day. Can you please tell me what the proposed new rate for a six month season ticket will be?

We are an employer in [redacted] and all our staff utilise season tickets.

I presume that it is intended that the season ticket price will increase in line with the daily rate.

If this is the case then I wish to object most strongly to a level of increase which cannot be justified.

Yours faithfully

[redacted signature]



It appears that "pay on exit" barriers are planned for car parks in Welham Street, Grantham and Wharf Road, Stamford, and also for the multi-storey car park in Wharf Road, Grantham. The Journal mentions that this will cost £75,000 per car park plus £18,000 per year for each car park for an attendant to man the system.

Is SKDC not affected by the current recession and serious cut-backs which the current Government have been planning for the last five months? How can SKDC possibly justify spending £225,000 to install unnecessary barriers etc PLUS approx £54,000 per year on wages to man the three car parks? If they seriously have that sort of money to waste, why don't they use some of it to keep the museum open or to ensure that local care homes are not under threat of closure?

On 4 October 2010 The Council's secret "Cabinet" recommended that SKDC should spend your money on "Consultation of the reclassification of car parks from long stay to short stay at Levels 1 and 2 at Welham Street, Grantham & Wharf Road, Stamford .....", which will involve increasing the charges for some periods at this car park - ie £8 per whole day instead of the current £3 per day.

In the same meeting the "Cabinet also requested and authorised consultation, if viable, for **pay on exit** to these car parks **AND** Wharf Road Grantham."

What is the point of spending vast sums of money, which we should not be wasting in times of large cut backs, on such pointless exercises as the installation of barriers in car parks which already work well with pay & display meters? The car park in Welham Street, Grantham is mainly used by SKDC personnel, who all display "free" Owl 2010 badges and don't have to pay for parking each day. Other drivers have already paid for their parking via a season ticket so again do not have to pay on the day. Do we really need to spend £18,000 per year for a man to raise a barrier without raising any further funding? Many drivers already balk at paying the ever increasing car park fees, preferring to clog up local streets all day for free, and no doubt fees will rise even further to cover the new barriers etc. Local residents are dismayed that the newish multi storey car park did nothing to alleviate car parking problems in and around Welham Street as promised. Meanwhile Bourne drivers still enjoy FREE off-street car parking.

Has SKDC not noticed that Grantham is a dying town, probably due in part to the hefty car park fees - which can cost up to £8 for an all day ticket in the short stay car park in Guildhall Street? We have more empty shops and charity shops than other similar sized local towns in different authorities. Gedling, Mapperley and Netherfield have this week dramatically reduced their car park fees to 30p for 1.5 hours, 50p for 2.5 hours, £1 for 3.5 hours and £2 for all day parking (see <http://www.gedling.gov.uk/index/env-home/ep-engserv-carparking/ds-carparkpermits.htm> if you don't believe me!) This has been done as a conscious effort to encourage shoppers to those areas - BRILLIANT! Why can't SKDC come up with such an idea instead of thinking up expensive schemes which neither raise extra money nor encourage people to come to Grantham? Grantham will never be "Great" whilst no-one can afford to park here.