

Councillor Stuart Hughes
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

Mr. David Hamner,
Chairman,
Kingsbridge and Salcombe Chamber of
Commerce,
c/o 10 Saunders Way,
West Charleton,
KINGSBRIDGE, TQ7 2BS

From: Councillor Stuart Hughes
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Date: 2nd March 2010

Dear Mr. Hamner,

Proposed Pay and Display Market and Coastal Towns

I refer to your letter dated 22 February regarding Pay and Display in Kingsbridge and other Market towns, addressed to Councillor Hart and passed to me as the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation.

The County Council Cabinet agreed at a meeting held on the 21st July 2009 to "open discussions with market and coastal Town and District Councils along with local members with a view to identifying areas for the implementation of on street Pay and Display at the earliest opportunity". Following this decision, officers have been in contact with a number of local Members and Town Councils to discuss pay and display. Over the next few months further Town Councils will be contacted.

Pay and Display offers many benefits to local businesses beyond those stated in your letter. It does increase the turnover of spaces by ensuring that motorists, who can currently abuse restrictions, by staying longer than specified, are no longer able to do so. It does make enforcement easier by reducing the amount of time taken to enforce. Limited waiting restrictions require two visits to prove that a vehicle has stayed longer than permitted, pay and display however only requires one visit to confirm that an appropriate ticket has been purchased and displayed correctly. This will allow enforcement officers to spend more time on enforcing safety critical restrictions in the town such as yellow lines. By ensuring the turnover of spaces pay and display offers other benefits, including less congestion, increased footfall into local shops by motorists who could not access the facilities previously and it ensures that visitors are contributing to the cost of parking enforcement.

I understand your concerns for the local high street businesses and the problems caused by the recession. However, in your neighbouring town of Totnes the introduction of pay and display does not appear to have caused any negative impact to the shops and businesses there, indeed the local Member tells me the scheme is working well. I understand that some local shops have undertaken to participate in a Pop and Shop scheme which allows motorists to get a refund when visiting their shop if they spend a specified amount. The introduction of pay and display has also enabled us to meet the long standing request for a residents parking scheme in Totnes.

Continued...../

In the near future, as and when it becomes a priority, officers will be contacting the Town Council and Chamber of Commerce to discuss where pay and display could be introduced in Kingsbridge and Salcombe and your views will be welcomed at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Hughes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Stuart Hughes
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation