

Dear Sirs

Parking on St George's Quay, Lancaster rear of the Maritime Museum

We are responding to your notice of intended charges for the car park to be implemented shortly.

We recognise that all local authorities have to endeavour to manage their budget satisfactorily and sometimes that means imposing additional charges, we would however argue that our anticipation of the charges collected will not make a significant impact on the city council budget when all of the costs are taken into consideration for the running and maintenance of the car parking area.

We have already written in objecting to the concept of car park charging and this is a further letter objecting to the imposition of the charges.

1. One of the major reasons for us renting accommodation from Lancaster City Council was the presence of adequate parking for staff and clients. The present location satisfied the criteria with three hours free parking at the front of the building and unlimited for our staff at the rear of the building. That has served us well over nearly two decades.
2. Generally speaking, the people who park on the car park during the course of the day are those working at either our own offices or Bay radio and a handful of people park there and work in town.

We believe those who work in town will no longer avail themselves of this parking facility at £6 per day - £30 per week out of taxed income.

3. If charges are imposed then inevitably people will seek areas where the parking is free and that we believe will lead to significant congestion down St. George's Quay, past Carlisle Bridge and into the new housing developments.
4. At night-time, all those who work locally leave the car park for the benefit of patrons of the pubs and restaurants along the quayside. Again, this has worked very satisfactorily for a great number of years.
5. The imposition of parking charges will deter patrons for the Maritime Museum which is already struggling for visitor members.
6. We would like to know more specifically how the business permit system works. We presume that since we are a business located where we are – next to the car park – we will be able to apply for permits for all our members of staff? Can we have confirmation of that? Can we also ask whether this means we shall have allocated spaces in the car park or will it represent a "free for all"?

We note that there is a cost to this at £150 per annum. This will represent an additional cost to our business along with the usual annual rates increase and other services increases. Not a conducive situation for smaller businesses.

We would like a response to our question about business permits and hope that you will take into consideration our objection.

Yours faithfully