

Dear Sir,

Parking always produces great reaction and feelings when the question is up for debate, I know how difficult it is to try and find a balance to accommodate all the requirements of government and the wish of the public that can at times seem at opposite ends of the spectrum.

I would hope that I have a middle of the road opinion in trying to protect our lovely countryside and community in the town and Parish of this Island.

Parking in St Helier is the main debate of most Islanders and there are in my opinion two main categories :

- 1) The working Commuter.
- 2) Public visiting for shopping , the life blood of a town, restaurants , theatre , Hospital etc.

We must always consider the Commuter as we rely on the Tax generated by this sector more than any so we must not punish them, we should try and provide frequent and efficient alternative transport for them but not forgetting that a lot live out in the Parishes and not on a lane or road serviced by our Bus service and it is not always practical or safe for them to walk in the rain and stand with no protection until the Bus arrives.

I acknowledge that our wishes and what is practical our difficult to always find the solution, Park and Ride if the locations could be found is one but we have to be open minded.

The requirements of the second groups are much more complicated and it is no good thinking that people will go into town and support the local shops and help to maintain the vibrant life required in a town if you ask them to struggle with shopping to the Bus and then from the Bus stop to there home. Taxi's are very expensive and not for most an alternative to the car.

Allowing shoppers and those wishing to visit Town by car is good but should be controlled and this can be by charging or providing free parking at times when the Commuter is at work, weekends can provide opportunities to reduce the time for Parking Charges to be in operation and Sunday can be Free to help the shops and restaurants if they are to be open.

In summary I think more consultation and flexible thought should be given to the Commuting public and those going in to town for an appointment, shopping, lunch or visiting friends and relatives to see the great attractions that St Helier provides in both historical interest or the arts and theatre.

In providing for all we need to embrace all forms of transport used and not punish for gain or political correctness any one group.

Kind regards

Robin Davison