



Cookstown

DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Clerk/Chief Executive
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COMHAIRLE CHEANTAR NA COIRRE CRÍOCHAI
DISTRICT COUNCIL O COOKESTOWN

16 June 2006

Mr S Wood
Sub Regional Transport Plan
(SRTP) Team
Transportation Unit
3rd Floor
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8GB



Dear Mr Wood

Draft Sub-Regional Transport Plan 2015 (STRP)

As requested Cookstown District Council has considered the Draft Sub-Regional Transport Plan 2015 (SRTP) in some detail at its Council meeting on 13th June 2006. In essence Council welcomes the planned investment of some £1.8M towards improving and enhancing infrastructure towards walking, cycling and public transport provision (please note in the Cookstown Walking Blueprint Fountain Road/Leisure Centre should be marked as a proposed secondary walking route).

The area of key concern within the documentation, relates to the issue of parking in Cookstown. Having considered the documentation, and as a result of the meeting between Council's Chief Executive, Director of Development and DRD officials on Thursday 8th June 2006, Council has given due consideration of the research undertaken by DRD, namely (Atkins 2002), (Jacobs Babbie 2005), and wish to express its absolute opposition to any suggested Pay and Display parking for Cookstown.

If, as the Department seem to suggest, that the way to address existing parking issue in Cookstown is through some form of Pay and Display parking then Cookstown District Council contests that this proposal is inappropriate and invalid on the basis that:-

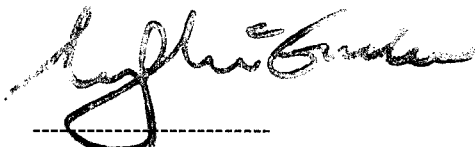
- DRD's own research survey consultation in 2002 (Atkins) identified that: 88% of parked vehicles remained for less than 1 hour on central main street.
- The same research, Atkins 2002 highlighted that with the main street and car parks combined, 84% of vehicles (3538) remained for less than two hours.
- Further research undertaken by Jacobs Babbie 2005 collaborate such findings. Such research clearly indicates a significantly high level of transport turnover in our town centre and indeed our car parks.

- The implementation of pay meters on Cookstown main street would be detrimental to the success of Cookstown. A town noted for its vibrancy and retail success.
- Cookstown District Council believe that any issues relating to increasing town centre parking turnover and more longer stays in car parks can be addressed through better traffic management arrangements.
- Pay and display would remove a key competitive element from the Cookstown business package. It would also have a severe impact upon our Saturday market, and upon the very essence of the culture of shopping in Cookstown.
- Cookstown District Council in conjunction with Cookstown Town Centre Forum, has spearheaded the preparation of Cookstown Town Centre Strategy and the more recent Urban Design Strategy. Whilst traffic flow and traffic congestion are issues which we are all eager to address, the concept of pay and park in the town and its car parks has been continually refuted by the public and private stakeholders who have taken part in our consultation exercises.

In conclusion Cookstown District Council and Cookstown Town Centre Forum are happy to work with DRD to examine and consider in more detail issues relating to parking in Cookstown. We are confident that such consideration will demonstrate how greater traffic management measures would build upon the already high percentage of traffic turnover and will highlight the inappropriateness of pay and park meters for Cookstown.

I trust you will take on board our key concerns and look forward to working towards an outcome beneficial to the future economic success for our town centre.

Yours sincerely



M J MCGUCKIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE