

Keep parking in Angus FREE.

Summary: Angus Council have introduced parking charges in an attempt to raise money to cover the shortfall in their financial planning. The policy discourages trade and tourism in Angus and should be scrapped.

Personal story: I am campaigning as chair of the Kirriemuir and Local Business Association (KALBA) but also as a lifetime resident of Angus. I am speaking up for the benefit of all residents and businesses in Angus to protect the future of the rural concept.

The issue: Angus Council leaders are in desperation to raise money and have not considered the long term cost to the Angus economy. The imposed restrictions will result in a loss of visitors and will discourage town centre trade in favour of retail parks with free parking.

Take action! Every Angus resident has a right to be respected by Angus Council when they make decisions on your behalf. They should be held to account at a public meeting for the lack of consultation on this matter and the bullish way it has been implemented. Vote to SCRAP these charges by signing now

Return Address: Barrie Ewart

Autosales

Lindsay Street

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Councillor David Fairweather

Leader of Angus Council

Dear Mr Fairweather,

This letter is delivered on behalf of the people of Angus and businesses within the county.

Our presence here today is borne out of frustration and the need for urgent action to ensure the survival of many businesses in Angus as well as the fair treatment of residents who live, work and shop in our town centres.

We are asking:-

- 1 You immediately switch off of the parking meters and put the covers back on before irretrievable damage is done to trading in our towns.
- 2 We want you to meet with representatives of the Angus public, residents and businesses to establish an acceptable policy on parking within the towns.
- 3 Consider the damage already caused by the Angus Council parking charges and the role the council should be taking to help business in Angus prosper.

We feel our requests are reasonable and are asking for customers to be given time to do their shopping without risk of being penalised for using their local businesses. We also feel that the cost to residents within the town centre are unfair and discriminating against town centre addresses.

There have been many demands and pressures put on businesses over the years, from edge of town mega stores and internet shopping not to mention the rising costs and procedural red tape of running a town centre business. The council is taking money from rates, bin collection, licensing etc but forgets that without customers there will be no town centre shops.

We hope you take our demonstration today seriously and act swiftly to bring harmony to the Angus council community. We hope you will look more carefully at council policies towards town centre survival going forward.

Shops used to give their customers plastic carrier bags for free. Then quite rightly the government forced a charge of 5p per bag. The amount of bags we now issue has dropped by 90%. Everybody can afford to pay the 5p but its the principle of paying for something that was free that caused the drop.