



High Steward

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APPENDIX B

TECHNICAL &
PROCUREMENT

14 JAN 2011

SERVICES

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12th January 2011

Mark Badger
Assistant Director Technical Services
Tendring District Council
Town Hall
Station Road
Clacton on Sea
Essex
CO15 1SE

Dear Mr Badger

Parking in Harwich

As High Steward of Harwich and also Chairman of the Electric Palace Cinema Trustees I receive a quite a lot of feedback on local issues by being out and about in the old Town on most days and it may be useful for you to be aware of this independent feedback in addition to the representations that will be coming to TDC from Harwich Town Council relating to the worsening parking problems. I understand that there also is a petition circulating.

Harwich Quay and Gas House Quay

The Public Realm works being carried out at present on Harwich Quay will make the whole Quay area more attractive for visitors and tourists as well as local people but the displacement of parking from the south side of the new narrower carriageway will have a serious impact on parking in the rest of the old Town. I understand that the recently resurfaced area at Gas House Quay was originally intended to be designated for "Parking" in the Harwich Masterplan but that that intention was subsequently changed with the area being withdrawn for use as a Car Park and designated for "Commercial use".

Many people in Harwich favour re-instatement of the initial plan with the resurfaced area at Gas House Quay being designated as a Car Park which could be used by the vehicles displaced from parking on Harwich Quay and by the increasing numbers of visitors attracted by the enhancement.

This re-think would demonstrate cooperation and co-ordination between District and Country Councils that would benefit the Harwich Quay Scheme, the residents of old Harwich, and the many visitors and tourists as well as those whose work brings them to the town on a daily basis.

It would help the thriving restaurants and businesses in the town and therefore fit in very well with Tendring District Council's corporate priorities in respect of attracting increasing numbers of tourists and visitors to the town.

These Quayside businesses need drop-off service bays – can these not be built into the scheme ?

I have also heard it mooted that an area suitable for car parking could become available near Harwich Railway Station.

Wellington Road

With regard to the Cinema it would be a considerable benefit if the Wellington Road Car Park could remain open until later in the evening e.g. until 11.00pm and, to encourage use, if there could also be a concessionary evening rate from 7.00pm until 11.00pm.

Last evening for instance we had a full house at the cinema and the whole of King's Quay Street, Cow Lane and Wellington Road were reduced to single file traffic while the Car Park had only one vehicle in it - possibly because people are very wary that the Car Park may be locked before the performance ends and because they perceive the current charge for evening use as being unreasonably high.

This proposal for Wellington Road Car Park would help the Church, the 1912 Centre and the Sailing Club as well as the Cinema and I imagine would be welcomed by the Police, the Emergency Services and possibly the majority of residents in the affected area although I would agree that the only way to ascertain the accuracy of the latter supposition would be by means of a referendum.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Essex County Council Highways Department and hope that a common-sense pragmatic solution to this now inevitable impending problem can be found in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Strachan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Strachan