

Email from member of the public – received 06/01/2010 23:07

Dear Ben,

Many thanks for your email and the information on speaking at the Committee meeting. I take the point that if the scrutiny goes ahead, it will provide plenty of opportunity for public comment, but the comment I'd like to make now concerns the actual setting up of the scrutiny.

First of all, the subject area to be scrutinised misses the mark. It isn't the Bewdley Resident's Season Ticket that is the nub of the problem, but the 23-hour rule. The 23-hour rule applies across the board and so also affects the holders of Restricted Season Tickets, Full Season Tickets, and potentially Pay and Display customers too, and not just in Bewdley. The issue has provoked more reaction in Bewdley because many residents have little choice but to use the Council car parks.

Secondly, the numbers: it hasn't been just 'several' residents who have complained about the unknown 23-hour rule and the subsequent parking tickets. At the Bewdley Town Council Meeting at which Cllrs. John Campion and Tracey Onslow spoke on the issue, there were over 60 members of the public. This group included not only residents but local businesses without their own car parking, such as the Woodcolliers, the Cock and Magpie and the Mug House who buy season tickets for the use of their paying guests.

Thirdly, there are sustainability implications: the only way I can comply with the 23-hour rule is by moving my car from one of the two Bewdley car parks covered by my season ticket to the other, on a daily basis, adding to pollution, local congestion, and wear and tear of roads and car park surfaces, without actually providing any more spaces - a pointless exercise and a considerable burden to the car owner. I imagine that this was not the intended consequence.

If the Chair is prepared to take these comments by email, I don't need to speak at the meeting. If I need actually to make these points in person, please would you register me to speak.

Many thanks,

Gillian Holland