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# Parking charges will be 'lunacy'

## ● Council slams plans for visitors and residents

By TOM MURPHY  
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INTRODUCING on-street parking charges to the roads of Windermere and Bowness would be 'lunacy', a meeting of the town's council was told.

Councillors met on Monday night for the first time since Cumbria County Council's cost-cutting proposals were rubber stamped last week.

The council has to save nearly £90 million over three years due to a decrease in central government funding.

In a bid to balance the books to the tune of £24m this year, county councillors agreed a raft of controversial cuts, savings and charging initiatives.

Among them was the introduction of on-street parking charges and making residents pay £25 a year for parking permits.

While the full details of the plan are yet to be announced, Windermere town councillors agreed to write to the county council expressing their opposition.

Coun Robert Judson said: "If you are living in an economy totally dependent on tourism, to stop free on-street parking is lunacy."

Coun Bill Smith added: "It is desperately important that

we make a case that if it is introduced here, there are a number of spaces that are free for a limited time period.

"If that doesn't happen, this is a disaster for the local economy and local shops."

And Coun Alan Marsh said there were not enough spaces for a plausible business model while Coun Joan Stocker raised concerns over how the elderly would shop in the town.

Mayor Allan Winrow added: "It would have a detrimental effect on the vitality of the town and have an unfair effect on residents."

A spokesperson for Cumbria County Council said: "The council will be introducing on-street charging in a phased, co-ordinated manner, which will allow us to

fully understand how it ties in with off-street parking and free parking areas, and what the best technology is to allow an affordable,

practical and user-friendly solution.

"It can mean smoother traffic flows, more availability of parking in the highest demand areas and benefits for businesses through an increase in available spaces.

"Decisions on where exactly to introduce the on-street parking charges, how much to charge and when and to whom restrictions should apply will be made at a local level, and we will be liaising with the district councils as part of this process."



**It would have a detrimental effect on the vitality of the town and... on residents**

**MAYOR ALLAN WINROW**

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