



Graham Vincent
Portfolio Holder
Economic Development & Transport

26th June 2008

Mr. A. G. Faulkner
Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade
2 Thwaites Howe
116 Craig Walk,
Bowness-on-Windermere

Dear Sir,

Thank for your letter dated June 16th, and my apologies for the late reply but I have been on holiday.

On behalf of the Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade you raise a number of issues concerned with parking enforcement and the 2004 Road Traffic Regulations which came into effect on 31st March 2008.

I hope that I shall be able to assure you on all accounts.

Parking enforcement cannot, as you rightly point out, be used as a revenue-raising tool, and neither has it ever been used as one by South Lakeland.

Since taking responsibility for parking enforcement South Lakeland council tax payers have funded the service to the extent of £ 750,000. Last year the service had net requirement for almost £ 200,000.

There are no targets and never have there been. We do not have a strict enforcement regime, for example in 2006 Chorley Borough Council which has almost 100,000 residents, (we have 103,000) issued 15,000 PCNs (penalty charge notices) We issued the same number but the difference is that South Lakeland had in excess of 8 million visitors .

The new Road Traffic Act states clearly that the Council tax payer should not be expected to fund parking enforcement rather that the service should be self financing. I can therefore confirm that South Lakeland District Council will comply with the new regulations.

South Lakeland District Council have recently reviewed , revised and combined their policies with respect to car parking and to parking enforcement, and this is displayed on our website.

However on the matter of consultation we have not widely sought the views of other organisations, and are grateful to you for raising the issue. I can confirm that your organisation will be consulted when the policy is next reviewed.

I have asked Dave Conlin , Head of Commercial and Technical Services at SLDC to write to you separately with a copy of the current policy.

Within my portfolio , economic development is a principle function, and I would be pleased to meet with your members to discuss issues that you have, and to receive any purposeful suggestions that you may wish to make.

Since we became the administration at SLDC in 2006 we have introduced a business oriented ethos to many of our departments , and continue to press for change within others .We are a significantly changed organisation from two years ago but we are aware that we still have a fair distance to travel!

I look forward to meeting you in the near future .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Vincent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and 'V'.

Graham Vincent