

## **Bath City Centre Parking Charges - letter to the Chronicle**

Dear Editor,

Your front page story on 6<sup>th</sup> August predicted a Council rethink about “expensive city centre parking fees” as these were said to be leading to a loss of revenue and as some shopkeepers felt they were deterring customers. The accompanying picture showed four pay-and-display spaces in Laura Place – two full and two empty. An alternative interpretation is just as likely – that this is evidence of a parking policy which IS working, because it is beginning to encourage visitors to park elsewhere than on the city centre streets.

I would remind you that Bath’s Transport Strategy, approved by the Council on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014, with cross-party agreement, seeks to “*enhance [Bath’s] unique status by adopting measures that promote sustainable transport **and reduce the intrusion of vehicles, particularly in the historic core.** This will enable more economic activity and growth, while enhancing its special character and environment and improving the quality of life for local people.*” The new Conservative administration has recently confirmed its support for this vision, which will not be achieved by encouraging visitors to drive around the city streets looking for empty places in which to park. On the contrary, this creates moving traffic, leading to more congestion and air pollution, and I hardly need to remind you that Bath is, reputedly, one of the most polluted cities in the country, with 92% of this caused by traffic. Moreover, hunger for parking fees to feed Council revenue must not be allowed to sway the way the vision is achieved.

Robin Kerr, Chairman FoBRA

14<sup>th</sup> Aug 15 – final