

Colin Barrow  
Westminster City Council  
City Hall  
64 Victoria Street  
SW1

Dear Mr Barrow

Proposed Late Night and Sunday Parking Charges

Many of us have approached you individually about the proposal to introduce late night and Sunday parking charges in the West End between 1am and 6 am, and on Sundays. We are now writing as a group to record our objection to this proposal.

We believe that this proposal will seriously damage late night and week end business in the West End. The lack of affordable, convenient and safe public transport means that employees and customers must use cars to travel into the West End at night. Prohibitive charges will force many employees to consider alternative employment, and many customers to go elsewhere. The impact on the late night economy – hotels, casinos, clubs and bars – will be disastrous. Those who have found it convenient to come to the West End on Sundays because of parking availability will no longer wish to come in. Finally, of course, it is worth noting that retailers rely on night workers as well, for cleaning, maintenance and supplies.

Alternatives to parking charges also bring their own difficulties. Car parks are often situated far from a place of work, forcing staff, many of whom are female, to walk long distances late at night. A worker's permit would be hard to administer and may restrict the choice of parking available.

We hope that you will not proceed with this proposal. At the very least, we hope that you will hold a full and open consultation on this issue, given its wide-ranging impact.

Paul Armitage  
Grosvenor Casinos

Keith Rouse  
Aspinalls

Fernando Garea  
Gala Group

Anne Talbot  
London Clubs International

T Pearce  
Stanley Casinos

Robin Birley  
Annabels

Christelle Visser  
The Ritz

Sam Gurney  
GMB

Ros Keeping  
TGWU

David Cammidge  
The Colony Club

Annie Walker  
The Regent Street  
Assoc.

Sally Humphreys  
The Oxford Street Assoc.

Sue McAinsh  
Covent Garden Market

Stephen Alambritis  
Fed. Small Businesses

Kate Nicholls  
Westminster Licensees Assoc

Philip Matthews  
The Rock Garden

Andrew Latham  
SFI Group

Alison Andersen  
Urbium Ltd.

cc.

Cllr Simon Milton, leader, Westminster City Council

Cllr Brian Connell

Mark Field MP

Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London

Angie Bray, GLA