

# KEEP BUSHY PARK FREE ALLIANCE

The Friends of Bushy & Home Parks, Hampton Hill Assoc., Hampton Soc., Hampton Wick Assoc., Molesey Residents' Assoc., Strawberry Hill Residents' Assoc., Teddington Soc., Esher & Walton Conservatives.

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## **Proposed Car Parking Charges for Bushy Park**

Dear

I write on behalf of the above organisations to seek your support in opposing the introduction of parking charges in Bushy and Richmond Parks in south west London.

On 15<sup>th</sup> January, the minister, The Rt. Hon. Margaret Hodge, announced the government's intention to introduce parking charges in the parks, for which a Statutory Instrument is required. The Statutory Instrument was laid before parliament on 1<sup>st</sup> February. M.P.s have 40 sitting days to raise objections.

The Royal Parks Agency (RPA) conducted a consultation on this and other proposed amendments to the regulations between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. We object only to the introduction of parking charges.

The parking charges are opposed by all local amenity groups and all local MPs, parliamentary candidates and the council authorities of Richmond, Kingston and Wandsworth. The parks agency's own figures show that 84% of local people oppose the measure.

Our main reasons are:

- Unlike central London, there is very little public transport around these parks. For most people, the car is the only viable way of getting to the park especially for the elderly or those with children or dogs.
- We believe people should be *encouraged* to take regular exercise in the fresh air, not *penalised* with charges. Regular users will have to find up to £700 per annum if they want to continue to visit their parks - this is simply not viable for many.
- Parking ticket machines, signage and associated paraphernalia will spoil the rural character of these parks, which is what makes them so special.
- Enjoyment of these natural spaces will be ruined by clock-watching.
- If the RPA's intention is to limit car usage, concentrating on the vast majority who use the parks as simple shortcuts would be hugely more effective.

See [www.keepbushyparkfree.org.uk](http://www.keepbushyparkfree.org.uk) for more information, facts and figures.

Please lend your support to our local M.P.s, Dr. Vincent Cable, Susan Kramer and Justine Greening who will be seeking a debate on the floor of the House on the proposed charges.

Yours sincerely

**[www.keepbushyparkfree.org.uk](http://www.keepbushyparkfree.org.uk)**