

Your Ref:
Our Ref: CMS 126734/CG



department for
culture, media
and sport

Mr Pieter Morpurgo
Chairman
Friends of Bushy and Home Parks
81 Park Road
Teddington
Middlesex
TW11 0AW

7 November 2009

Dear Mr. Morpurgo

Thank you for your detailed letter of 19th October about the proposal to charge for car parking in Bushy Park.

I know that a great many people are opposed to the introduction of parking charges in Bushy Park and it is understandable that visitors are reluctant to pay for a service that was previously free.

I will reflect on all you say, but I do not accept your assertion that the level of charge will deter people from visiting. It may have the effect of encouraging visitors to use modes of transport other than the car, which has to be good for the park. There is no evidence that a charge will lead to significant displacement parking in the roads outside the parks, but if a charge were introduced the Agency has said it will review the impact within 18 months of implementation. I should also add that the proposed charge of £0.50 an hour to a maximum of £2.00 is not excessive and Bushy and Richmond parks are the only Royal Parks with parking provision that do not charge.

I agree that the sight of parking meters across the park would be unacceptable and I hope I can reassure you that there are no plans to do this. Visitors will be permitted to park in designated car parks only.

Introducing a six hour maximum stay was intended to discourage commuter parking, but I note what you and others have said about the impact that this could have and I will give this careful thought.



improving
the quality
of life for all

While I do not agree with all the issues you raise, I am very grateful for the work of the Friends and other volunteer groups who have supported the Park over the years. I hope that you will accept that what we can all agree on is our wish to preserve and enhance Bushy Park for this and future generations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Hodge'.

MARGARET HODGE MP