



The Association of British Drivers

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Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release
17 January 2007

Richmond Residents Decisively Oppose CO2 CPZ Tax Proposals

The first results of the public consultation of residents by Richmond council on their proposed increases in permit parking charges are now available. The new charges would be based on CO2 emissions and involve substantial increases for many people.

But residents have shown their opposition to the scheme in substantial numbers and the overall results of the various consultation methods the council has used indicates that 52% are against the scheme versus 41% in favour.

Serge Lourie, Leader of Richmond Council, has issued a press release stating that a majority of respondents to the council's consultation support the proposals but this only refers to the survey of residents that used a biased consultation form with a set of leading questions. His data ignores the letters the council received, the on-line consultation input and the views of those most affected – namely those who live in permit parking zones.

Mr Lourie and council staff also seem to be prejudging the decision of councillors, who have yet to see the full consultation results in a proper report, and who do not meet until the 24th January to discuss the matter. Indeed the council's web site says that "they are pursuing the radical proposals" anyway.

The Association of British Drivers (ABD) deplores this attempt to mislead public opinion and the undemocratic ways that LiberalDemocrat councillors are using in Richmond to attempt to push through these proposals.

For further information, please contact:

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Consultation Results

The following information has been supplied by Conservative Councillors:

The Consultation was in four parts:

- Selective residents questionnaire
- Selective business questionnaire
- On-line comments
- Letter inviting comments

Method	For	Against	TOTAL
Residents questionnaire	778	619	1587
Business Questionnaire	118	185	394
On-Line comments	620	930	1550
Letter response	190	442	632
	1706	2176	4163
	41%	52%	

THEREFORE THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY AGAINST THE CPZ TAX

Richmond Council's Press Release can be seen in full at:
www.richmond.gov.uk/press_office/press_releases/january_2007_press_releases/richmond_council_to_pursue_adoption_of_groundbreaking_parking_charges.htm and the initial report on the residents consultation only is present at
<http://cabnet.richmond.gov.uk/Published/C00000168/M00001540/AI00012213/ParkingPermitChargesAppendix.pdf> (there should be more to follow apparently).

About The Association of British Drivers (ABD)

The ABD is the leading independent organisation which represents the interests of private motorists in the United Kingdom. We campaign to protect the rights of individual road users and believe that road transport is a beneficial and essential element in the UK transport infrastructure. We oppose excessive taxation of motorists and are against tolls and road usage charging. We also campaign for more enlightened road safety policies. The Association is a "not for profit" voluntary organisation which is financially supported primarily by its individual members. More information on the ABD is available from our web site at www.abd.org.uk