

Tabled Information - Reference 140/13(G) - Priscilla Williams

NEW PROPOSAL: PAY AND DISPLAY PARKING AT WELLINGTON BOTANIC GARDEN

We are proposing to instigate an enforceable P 120 time limit and install pay and display parking at \$2 per hour from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. This would achieve revenue of \$32,400 per annum. The capital cost associated with this proposal is \$95,000. The revenue generated by these charges will be invested directly back into the Botanic Garden to support its ongoing operations and development.

I live adjacent to the Rose Garden and Anderson Park and pass through there by foot or car most days. From my personal observations there are ample parking spaces available during week days except over lunch times on sunny days. The problem therefore is how to deal with a heavy demand on few occasions and a light demand most other times. The current proposal for paid parking is not a good solution.

The obvious solution to this problem, insofar as it exists, is to provide proper enforcement to discourage commuters, of whom there are very few and can be easily distinguished from park visitors who stay for shorter times. The Council should provide for Parkwise to monitor the grounds and issue tickets, which is not done at present. The only enforcement that exists at present is for the staff to tow away offenders – and apparently they have never done this, being reluctant to act as traffic wardens.

An aggregating fact is that taxis use the parking area by the Seddon Memorial as a holding area and at times four or five are there to the detriment of genuine park visitors. Again the Parkwise brief could be extended to address this problem.

If the Council's aim in introducing this proposal is for financial reasons, it may not prove to be lucrative. The few cars in the park during inclement weather will drop even further and there will be many months of the year when the revenue stream will be slight. It may take a long time even to recoup the high cost of installing meters.

There is also a fundamental principle at stake – whether it is desirable for the Council to be trying to make money from one of the most important public amenities in Wellington – a garden which was founded by our pioneers as a place all could come and enjoy, whether rich or poor. It is inappropriate for a Council that proclaims its environmental credentials to charge the public for garden visits. It will seriously disadvantage those who are elderly or less mobile and therefore are unable to walk a distance from the free parking outside the park. A series of parking meters will be an unattractive addition to the gardens for the many tourists who visit this important and beautiful garden.

Priscilla Williams
Submitter