
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	27 October 2016
Report By:	Head of Legal & Property Services	Report No:	RMcG/LP/180/16
Contact Officer:	Rona McGhee	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	Letter from Kilmacolm Traders – Request by Councillor McCabe		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Environment & Regeneration Committee to consider a request from Councillor McCabe.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Councillor McCabe has requested that the Committee consider a letter from traders in Kilmacolm calling for the abolition of the parking disc zones in the village. A copy of the letter is attached (APPENDIX).

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Committee consider the request from Councillor McCabe.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services

APPENDIX

Inverclyde Council,

F A O Stephen Mc Cabe

Municipal Buildings,

Clyde Square,

Greenock

PA15 1LY

3rd October 2016

Dear Mr Mc Cabe,

Re: Signed letter from Kilmacolm traders (20 no.) (attached) requesting the abolition of the existing parking Disc regulations:

As per our recent discussion, during which you pledged to "look at" a letter signed by the local Trading group, please find enclosed the above letter requesting that Inverclyde Council abolish the existing punitive Parking Disc regime within the village of Kilmacolm.

I should report that not a single trader refused to sign this letter of request, and are by definition, to a man, against the existing system, with many citing a downturn in trade since it's introduction to the Village centre.

As a group, we are extremely united and motivated and would urge the Council to abolish the current system as soon as is practicable. The firm belief is that this system is costing the local business community dear, with lower footfall reported village wide, and many locals and visitors falling foul of the new system. Many visitors have vowed never to return to the village citing the fact that the atmosphere enjoyed previously has diminished, and such a system has no place in such a small, rural village environment.

I would also draw your attention to a statement made by yourself prior to the introduction of the existing system (published within the Greenock Telegraph Nov. 2015) when attempting to allay the fears of us traders here in Kilmacolm:

Quote: "The Council is keen to support Kilmacolm Traders in these difficult times, and would wish to ensure the parking arrangements in the Village don't have a detrimental impact on their businesses"

The actions of the Council would fly in the face of such a statement were the existing system to be retained, and would be squarely against local needs and requirement.

Our submitted signed letter illustrates quite clearly that the system is not suitable for such a small Village, it's residents, or Traders, with concrete, real time events backing up what we seek, the removal of parking restrictions in the Village centre. If our request is unsuccessful, businesses will undoubtedly suffer even more than of late, and will ultimately, cease to trade.

Businesses and entrepreneurs are the lifeblood of any Village, and the shopping environment should be welcoming, relaxed and encouraging, allowing visitors to spend without penalty, something that simply is not happening at present, **and action is needed in the very short term.**

I await your / the Council's response to this request,

Yours sincerely,

James J Kelly, Kilmacolm Trader

Open letter to Stephen McCabe, Inverclyde Council

From: The Undersigned Kilmacolm Traders

Re: Existing Disc System Parking Regulations within the Village of Kilmacolm:

We, the undersigned, request that the existing Disc System Parking Regulations are removed from the centre of Kilmacolm Village.

In support of our request, we cite the undernoted events following the introduction of the Disc System Parking Regulations :

Since implementation, this parking scheme has had a noticeable and detrimental effect on the village both in general day to day atmosphere, as well as a tangible, significant drop off in footfall within local businesses.

Visitors to Kilmacolm have consistently expressed major surprise that such a small Village would have, or indeed warrant, any such timed control enforcement.

There have been first hand instances of customers vowing "never to return" to the Village having been ticketed for non display of a timed disc, citing unclear signage on the perimeter, as well as within, the Village centre.

The erected signage panels, which undoubtedly adhere to planning rules on size and format, are not finished in a "stand out" colour, being predominantly grey, they are not visible enough to inform a Driver, as many state that they have missed these notices on their approach to the Village.

The displayed sign to the restricted parking area adjacent to the Library on St James' Terrace does not display the Warden applied "10 minutes allowed" period, causing confusion and ultimately, many fines being issued.

Moreover, and very importantly, the printed guidelines issued to all Traders by Inverclyde Council clearly state that this Loading Bay is part of the Disc control area. This has caused much angst locally, and in the end, more tickets being issued to misinformed motorists.

These Fixed Penalty Notices are being incurred solely due to grossly misleading instructions, and as such, could be challenged legally.

Additionally, it has come to light that a resident of Kilmacolm has received 3 tickets during the month of August, a situation that defies explanation, and proof that even those who are aware of the existing regulations, are falling foul, and incurring major expense simply by parking in their own Village.

It is fully understood that, should the Disc System be abolished, Council employed Wardens would be retained to check and action any contraventions of the Highway Code and Bylaws relating to single and double yellow lines within Kilmacolm as part of their normal day to day operations.

The above request is confined to the timed Disc Control System which we deem wholly unsuitable for our Village environment, and to avoid a further damaging drop off in business footfall, requires to be removed as soon as is practicable.

We as a group await your early response on this very important issue.

Signed:

Business name:

Date:

VILDO 13
James Kelly
[Signature]

13th SEPT 16

13th SEPT 16

CROSS CAFE

14th SEP.

Wild Rose

14th Sep.

Ashes hair Design

14th Sep.

KILMACOLM NEWS

14th Sept.

Etoile

14th Sept.

SOLE SOLUTION

14th Sept.

FRANCES COLLINS

14th Sept

Kilmacolm Traders requesting the abolition of the Parking Disc System:

Signed:

Business name:

Date:

HANZO ZOTATZ	14.9.16
FERNÉ & FLORENCE	14.09.16
TITREADS	14.09.16
MUNRO OPTOMETRISTS	14/9/16
MUNRO OPTOMETRISTS	14/9/16
KILMACOLM POST OFFICE	14/9/16
DECOUS, KILMACOLM	14-9-16
HALLS, KILMACOLM	14-9-16
GIBB STREET HOME HARDWARE	15-9-16
SAPPHIRE, KILMACOLM	15-9-16
REDJACKET EVENTS	20-9-16
WISWATON, KILMACOLM	