

Statement by Members

As the elected member for the Ashford division, I was delighted when Spelthorne Borough Council and Surrey County Council decided to jointly fund improvements to three of the smaller shopping towns in Spelthorne. Ashford benefited from this, with most of the improvements that were decided on by residents, now in place. Ashford was chosen due to the amount of closed shops in the town, and it was hoped that the improvements would help it to become the thriving town it once was.

However, residents, businesses and the borough council are all in agreement that installation of parking meters in the town would undo all of the hard work that has been done to improve the town, and would drive shoppers away into the out of town superstore, less than one mile away, or into other towns with pay parking that have a bigger choice of shops.

Who would pay more to stop and get smaller items such as a newspaper or pint of milk, than the items costs?

I cannot understand why Surrey County Council would invest £300,000 into these towns, and then propose the destruction of them by installing parking meters.

I must represent the 11,000 electors in my division of Ashford as expected of me, and oppose any plans to install parking meters in the town.

Carol Coleman
County Councillor for Ashford
10 May 2011