Local Government and Communities Committee

Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Disabled Persons’ Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009

Submission from J.J. Lennon

- Do you think the Act has achieved its aim of preventing disabled person’s parking spaces being used by those who are not entitled to?

The act in itself is more or less correct. It omits the non-Council areas to ensure that parking spots are clearly marked and maintained and enforced. There are numerous areas in North Lanarkshire where parking spots are barely able to be identified. There should be an amendment to enforce compliance.

- How well is the local authority in your area carrying out its duties required by the Act to convert all advisory on-street disabled persons’ parking places into enforceable parking places, unless they are no longer required?

North Lanarkshire Council does not have any enforcement policy. They used to have about 6 years ago but they got rid of the wardens. There is no enforcement in this area. People park wherever they like. This is a result of not providing sufficient parking. Most of the cars parked in Motherwell are there for a full day. The Council are reputed to be bringing in parking enforcement. There is no evidence of this happening. They have created chaos in and around town centres with their obvious mandate to exclude cars. Motherwell is an example of how not to design a town centre. They ignore any suggestions to improve traffic flow. Also there are no checks on the validity of users of Blue Badges. Badge enforcement is long overdue.

- Any other issues relating to the Act which you wish to bring to the attention of the Committee?

“Private” parking areas, eg Supermarkets and shops do not enforce Blue Badge parking anymore. All they do is put up signs and do nothing in enforcement. The major supermarkets at one time had wardens enforcing Blue Badge spots and their 3 hour use of the parking. This does not happen now.

J.J. Lennon