

**Transport & Obesity**  
Seminar, Manchester, 8 October 2007

**Richard Armitage**

**Are we nearly there yet?**

◆ **Q: We all know the facts but transport is still contributing to obesity - why is this?**

◆ **A: An awkward combination:**

- ❖ it's just like car parking
- ❖ poor leadership, and
- ❖ political confusion...

**Attitudes to car parking**

◆ **Car parking as a metaphor?**

◆ **Resistance to change:**

- ❖ People in charge do not want to have to make any changes to their own parking arrangements or those of their organisation
- ❖ Same with obesity and transport; it is simply much easier not to change
- ❖ Look at the following presentation...

**Hospitals & car parking:  
taking control**

**Richard Armitage**

**Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy Ltd.**

**Car parking: taking control**

- ◆ **Car parking policy**
- ◆ **Administration & enforcement**
- ◆ **Examples from elsewhere**
- ◆ **Site Travel Plans: how parking fits in**

**Out of control...**



- ◆ **Emergency vehicle access blocked**
- ◆ **Pedestrians obstructed**
- ◆ **Neighbours inconvenienced**

## Out of control...



- ◆ **Management time spent on parking**
- ◆ **Silent majority's resentment at minority "Getting away with it"**
- ◆ **Lost parking revenues**

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## Car parking policy

### ◆ **General principles:**

- ❖ Parking is a privilege not a right
- ❖ Granting permission to park
- ❖ Needs-based parking system
- ❖ Allocating scarce resource equitably
- ❖ Ensuring effective operation of the Trust's sites
- ❖ Honesty about where the money goes

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## Fair allocation

- ◆ **Unfair & inefficient:**
  - ❖ First come, first served
- ◆ **Unfair, probably inefficient:**
  - ❖ Special parking privileges for certain higher paid staff
- ◆ **Inefficient & poor PR:**
  - ❖ Staff able to park nearer to key entrances than patients & visitors

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## Parking permit for staff

### ◆ **Form design:**

- ❖ Examples from other Trusts
- ❖ Scoring system
- ❖ Public transport alternatives
- ❖ Dependents

### ◆ **Fresh application each year:**

- ❖ Circumstances change

### ◆ **Privileges for car sharers**

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## New permit system

### ◆ **Process:**

- ❖ Consultation
- ❖ Agree permit criteria
- ❖ Agree charging regime
- ❖ Design application form & permits
- ❖ Agree administration
- ❖ Amend parking layout if necessary

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## New permit system

### ◆ **Going live:**

- ❖ Invite applications
- ❖ Evaluate applications
- ❖ Issue new permits
- ❖ Deal with appeals
- ❖ P-Day: Go Live
- ❖ Enforcement: who to do this & how

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## Parking at hospitals

- ◆ **Plymouth Derriford & Addenbrooke's Cambridge**
  - ❖ Public transport: shift from car to bus
- ◆ **Wigan Infirmary & Southampton General**
  - ❖ Residents Parking Zone
- ◆ **Parking part of Travel Plan**

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## Ever more provision?



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## Technical issues

- ◆ **Patients & visitors:**
  - ❖ Pay & Display
  - ❖ Pay On Foot
  - ❖ Pay on Exit
- ◆ **Staff:**
  - ❖ Monthly/Annual deduction
  - ❖ Daily Charge

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## Access for patients & visitors

- ◆ **Parking located near entrances**
- ◆ **Short-stay: drop-off/collection**
- ◆ **Blue badge (quantity/quality)**
- ◆ **Special circumstances:**
  - ❖ Temporarily impaired
  - ❖ Parents & children
  - ❖ Frequent visitors

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## Staff parking

- ◆ **Shift workers & personal security**
- ◆ **NHS staff (non-Trust):**
  - ❖ Contractors' staff
  - ❖ Community staff collecting equipment & records (usually short-stay)
  - ❖ Training courses & students
- ◆ **Contractors' vehicles**

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## Travel Plan

- ◆ **Rochdale: condition of planning permission = Travel Plan**
- ◆ **Development & background increase in activity levels**
- ◆ **Parking demand increasing**
- ◆ **Travel Plan & Parking Policy must work hand-in-glove**

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## Leadership

### ◆ **Ambition is absent; large-scale solutions involving cycling and walking are being avoided**

- ❖ How much of Greater Manchester's £3billion Transport Innovation Fund bid will be spent on active travel?
- ❖ Look what cross-party civic leaders have achieved in Groningen...

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## See separate "Groningen" presentation

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## Politics & sustainable travel

### ◆ **Political confusion, challenging many traditional positions:**

- ❖ We are totalitarians threatening civil liberties (e.g. Daily Mail and the 'right' to speed in our cars)
- ❖ We seek collective solutions, not just individualistic lifestyle choices

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