

**Statement No.68 - Brendan Murphy, Director – BARBI, and Annie McGann, Save Bristol Nightlife
British Association of Restaurants, Bars and Independents – Bristol**

[BARBI](#) found out yesterday that there is a meeting of Bristol City Council's Transport & Connectivity Policy Committee this Thursday evening with substantial increases in parking costs as one of the topics under discussion. We would like to ask why Bristol City Council are once again targeting the night time economy and not supporting it. Surely Bristol City Council should be encouraging people into town and not pricing them out of it.

On Page.59 it states "There may be a potential negative impact for local businesses and traders if there if car parking charges lead to a reduction in shopping etc. and dependent on the location there may be a higher proportion of Black and minoritised ethnic led businesses affected."

May be a potential negative impact? Which businesses has this been discussed with? If attending a gig then cost of parking will increase from £4 to £7.50 (2-3hrs), £10 (3-4 hrs) or £12.50 (4-5 hours). Those are increases of 87.5%, 150% and 312.5% respectively.

Reasoning presumably per Page. 254 which states in Revenue Risks and Opportunities: 3.3. The largest revenue challenge within these two areas is delivering increasing income targets. The Council Revenue and Capital budget for 2024/25 included policy that income targets would, in general, be increased by 6.7% (representing the 2023-24 rate of inflation). For parking incomes this equated to an increase of just over £1m, which is particularly challenging given there was a deficit against previous income targets in 2023/24. **Proposals are being developed to increase parking income through adjusting our multi-story and residential parking scheme tariffs.**

Aside from customers being hit with this increased cost, has any thought at all gone to the workers that drive in – with even more having to do this since the removal of long term scooters in the last week meaning no scooters are available between midnight and 6am and the poor provision of late night buses. Or even NHS staff that might park at Trenchard St with the overnight rate of £5.50 presumably on the table to be scrapped as well?

BARBI would like to object to any increases or changes being made until proper consultation has been carried out. Maybe speaking to the night time economy industry might generate some useful feedback – please let this not be like the waste strategy roll out from the previous administration.

Some feedback we have acquired from venue owners and workers in the last 24 hours for you to peruse below. With more notice we'd have hundreds of venues and thousands of our members and the public signing petitions to make Bristol City Council start supporting businesses rather than jeopardising their future:

Really going to hit the nighttime economy... Big impact on touring bands playing in centre venues are already forking out £18 CAZ zone prices (unloading after midnight so no choice). Have already had bands rushing off early to leave the city before midnight so as not to have to pay again.
Parking prices are already ridiculous.
Really prods the wounds of venues supporting bands who already earn little to nothing, who are simply trying to share entertainment.
These increases are infuriating and relentless.

my venue has stop having bands due to parking and clean air zone charge, bands just don't want to pay it

This is mental!! This is just money grabbing from the night time economy and correct staff will stop working in the city centre as it's not cost effective

I can't get home using public transport at 4am and walking home alone along the harbour isn't an option for me. Reckon Bristol city council are going to care if I'm raped on the way home? Don't think so. I'll stick to the car!

it just feels like another nail in the coffin for hospitality venues . Zero shits do they give about us. What about the people who work in the night time economy and need a car to get home when they finish their shifts? No buses in the early hours of the morning.!!!! It's about time they supported these valuable venues that are trying their best to keep Bristols heart beat going but they can't take much more and pretty soon Bristol will become a ghost town

I now drive a member of staff home after a near miss, and I'm not waiting around at 2 or 3am for a bus that might not even turn up. Parking for the evening costs the same as a day ticket and it gets me closer to work and runs on my personal schedule.

bus to my area stops at 11pm

I'm on the 75 route but it's not reliable at all when I try to catch it.

As another city centre venue this would really cause problems for us. We regularly have bands having to park vans on the street overnight 6pm - 9am because their hotels / hostels don't have any parking and their vans are too high to fit in the multi storeys

The price of parking in bristol is already more expensive than other bigger cities as it is. This is absolutely insane to consider an increase in the prices

There's no point penalising drivers when the council continues to fail to provide viable and cost effective alternatives. I'd get the bus but between it being cheaper and faster to drive in and park plus the fact the buses aren't reliable, there's no point.

How do we stop this. The council are hell bend on destroying all businesses!

I avoid the city centre at all costs as it is now! City centre will just be full of more student flats.

Best regards,

Brendan Murphy, Director – BARBI, and Annie McGann, Save Bristol Nightlife
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