

No.69 – Kathryn Davis, Visit West

We are increasingly seeing an issue in Bristol's visitor experiences suffering because of difficulty in either reaching the venue in the first place or being able to get home safely and responsibly. This is acute in some areas more than others with the cost of parking and lack of alternative travel options, particularly on a Sunday. It is not just visitors, but as important, those staff working in venues who need to get home.

For those working a late shift in entertainment or hospitality, as well as services such as hospitals, a non-CAZ compliant vehicle will be charged twice due to the midnight reset, and now increased parking charges as well. Many of the people working in the nighttime economy are often on the lower end of the pay scale, and even with Living Wage in place, they are penalised in ways that day time workers are not.

For visitors, reaching some of our attractions is hard enough and we seem to be making it even more difficult. Half of Bristol's visitor economy is made up of day visits (valued at around £500m with a further £500m from staying visitors) and our park and ride services are not late enough for those attending theatre or concerts, let alone clubs and restaurants. This whole process needs a pause and rethink.

We have also heard from businesses around the harbourside that Sundays have gone from being a peak visitor day into a very difficult trading time. The lack of park and ride at Long Ashton and M2 service cuts off large sections of our visitor experience, including Spike Island, Brunel's SS Great Britain and some great harbourside hospitality businesses. This is a huge concern.