

Dear News,

When Gosport councillors discussed their budget on last week, there was a lot of debate about how much money should be put into the team of officers who try to persuade businesses to set up in the borough.

The Conservatives were arguing for more money for the team, money that would come in large part from the car parking fees.

This is robbing Peter to pay Paul. The Tories are imposing a tax that could lead to job losses as shops struggle in the High Street and then use the money raised to try to create jobs.

Parking charges have led to people shopping outside the borough, inevitably increasing traffic and driving another nail into the coffin of the town centre.

In general, I am in favour of parking charges, but there has to be the public transport in place to give people an alternative and the town centre has to be in a healthier state than Gosport's.

Andrea Claire Smith

Press officer

SE Hants Green Party