

# Workers should be given free parking

What does Ashford High Street need? It desperately needs shoppers.

Free parking after 3pm is a new scheme being introduced by Ashford council in certain Ashford town centre car parks.

It is designed to lure shoppers into the High Street when the shops are at their quietest. And the shop workers?

Ashford is able to service/employ its shop workers from the thousands of people living in its immediate area with access to good bus services. Tenterden, on the other hand, has completely different needs.

What does Tenterden need? Cheap or free parking for the High Street shop workers in the centre of town. Tenterden does not service the majority of its shop workers from the local town population.

The shop workers come in from far and wide. Most have to drive as there are no useful bus services.

The shop workers need somewhere cheap to park. On a minimum wage, they can't afford the £4.50 a day to park in Bridewell Lane car park so they park in the residential side streets and annoy the local residents.

Someone has to stop the inconsiderate parking across driveways, in front of dropped kerbs, on corners, on double yellow lines.

Someone has to stop the constant coming and going of cars in our lovely residential streets. As a temporary solution, I suggest issuing permits to shop workers so they can park in Bridewell Lane car park for a minimal sum each month. Bridewell Lane car park is nearly empty most of the time so it is hardly earning any income for Ashford Borough Council.

**Sue Ferguson**