

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

FULL COUNCIL

19th April 2004

**Motion selected for debate by Councillor Bob Blackman,
Leader of the Conservative Group.**

CONGESTION CHARGING

This Council notes the proposed extension of the Congestion Charge to the west of London and the proximity of the area proposed to Brent. This Council notes that the Congestion Charge is the first tax in history to lose money and is deeply unpopular amongst residents of London. Furthermore, the congestion charge means that businesses are losing money and will lead to businesses relocating. This Council notes that Kensal Green Cemetery lies within the boundaries of the proposed zone. This means that mourners and those visiting the graves of their loved ones will be forced to pay the congestion charge or leave their vehicles in Kensal Green and cross the Harrow Road. In addition, the impact of the new zone will be that commuters and shoppers will be prompted to leave their vehicles elsewhere in Brent and use the Underground or other railway stations. Brent Council will then seek to introduce further CPZs forcing residents to pay for the cost of parking controls to prevent Brent from becoming a massive car park. This Council believes that the congestion charge is wrong in principle, loses money and will only serve to increase parking and traffic problems in areas such as Brent. This Council therefore calls on the Mayor of London to withdraw this proposal.