

**1 December 2008**

## **QUESTIONS REMAIN OVER DISABLED PARKING BILL**

Jim Tolson MSP for Dunfermline West and Liberal Democrat member of the Local Government and Communities Committee commented after speaking in the Stage 1 Debate on the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Bill last week.

"Liberal Democrats support the general principle of this Bill. We recognise that disabled parking bays are regularly used by drivers who do not have a blue badge. Figures published by the Baywatch campaign group show that over 20 per cent of disabled parking bays in supermarket car parks are being used by non-disabled drivers.

There are concerns, however, about what the financial consequences of this Bill will be on Scotland's local authorities. I also remain to be convinced that local authorities will compel existing off-street parking providers to enforce the proposed restrictions."