



Contact Information

Hugh Douglas-Smith

Tel. 0118 9 770 913

e-mail hugh@shareacar.com

Approved For Immediate Release

**shareAcar.com sees 50% increase as a result of
London Congestion Charges**

The online solution which promotes the safety of its users has seen a 50% increase in users travelling towards London's congestions zone

HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 20th FEBRUARY 2003

Following a steady increase in awareness of the shareAcar.com site, registrations have continued in an upward trend particularly with users travelling into central London and the surrounding area. Interviewed on Reading 107FM News, Officepark Director, Hugh Douglas-Smith commented "We knew the congestion charge would cause a few people to investigate car sharing, however we did not expect the significant increase in registrations from commuters not travelling into the congestion zone". Hugh put this down to the fact that drivers heading towards areas around the zone were predicting heavy disruption to their journeys from others trying to avoid the zone and were now turning to car sharing.

Hugh went on to state that shareAcar.com was also seeing increases in other areas surrounding cities muted to be proposing their own congestion charge zones. Asked whether he would like to see more congestion schemes

introduced, Hugh stated “Whilst it cannot be argued that London’s new scheme has been very good for business with more than a 50% increase in London users, we would not advocate more zones just to increase our business. Where we are benefiting, is from more commuters seeing the advantages of sharing a car and realising that shareAcar.com has the only safe and secure environment in which to do this.” He continued “Our original proposal to charge users a £5 fee against a credit card to register as a means of verifying their identity, so providing a safe environment has paid off and become an accepted principle of shareAcar.com. The coincidence that this is also the same as the daily congestion charge has underlined the value we are offering”.

shareAcar.com is a community based website developed and managed by Officepark Ltd. Officepark was founded in 1997 to provide websites to small and medium sized businesses who required more than online brochures. The company has developed a number of leading technologies which are now deployed across a number of sites providing online support to client companies as well as their ultimate customers.

Further information is available online from www.shareacar.com/press

Ends