

Parking in Aptos not bad, study says

APTOS — Parking in Aptos Village may not be as bad as you think.

So said planning consultant Jeff Oberdorfer Wednesday night to some two dozen downtown business owners at a special parking study workshop.

Oberdorfer has been hired by the county Planning Department to prepare an improvement plan for the village, specifically concerning parking and pedestrian enhancements.

He has already conducted a parking count survey that shows just 60 percent of the spaces along Soquel Drive in the village being filled.

Some 43 percent of the spaces were also found to be so-called "long-term parking" — meaning motorists are parking there all day, Oberdorfer added. While it hasn't been determined whether owners of those cars are employees of businesses, car-poolers or bus-riders, it's evident that those cars are taking parking spaces away from businesses.

"If you get rid of the 43 percent long-term parkers, you'll do a lot toward alleviating parking problems immediately," said senior county planner Betty Cost.

She said two additional workshops will be scheduled.