

Dear Brian

Unfortunately, I cannot attend the JTB this evening as I am unwell.

I have the following comments to make:

- 1) The disabled bays have not been done in Court Street. Why? On behalf of disabled town users I reluctantly agreed March/ April to a **TRIAL** closure providing the additional spaces were provided. Thanks for your swift action on the central carpark additional 3 spaces. The trial started on August 3rd, but the JTB approved it in June – 6 months ago.
- 2) Since the Friday closure I have been contacted by many disabled and elderly people, who were unaware of the original consultation we held on the marketplace in April, and who are unhappy about their lack of access to the town centre and the market on a Friday. They feel they are being discriminated against. It should be remembered that disabled people cannot 'rush' to get into the town and do everything and be out of the town by 10.am. Friday is the traditional shopping day and is more important for them, given the closure on Saturdays. Some residents are telling me they can no longer have their hair done, buy from the market stalls, meet friends for lunch etc.
- 3) Despite the additional spaces in the carpark I have attempted to park several Fridays around 10 am and have been unable to do so. I personally no longer purchase my fresh produce from the market, nor shop in the town on a Friday.
- 4) I note from the agenda there is a petition from the traders (virtually unanimous of all traders) that the additional closure is affecting their businesses. I have checked the 70/80 names and with a couple of exceptions all have signed the petition. On this subject I strongly feel that the views of the traders were not fairly and properly represented at the steering group, chaired by Pete Raine, as apart from town councillors there was just the market manager and Carters newsagents in the market place, who are in favour of the closure and not adversely affected by it, whereas others clearly are experiencing a detriment to their businesses and were not included in the consultative meeting.

- 5) It should be remembered that the elderly and disabled, who together with young families , are the life blood of the town centre and its economic life during the week especially.
- 6) Should the JTB decide not to halt the trial now, then I would like to see a full and thorough consultation on the trial period which ends February 2nd.

I would be grateful if my views could be made known to members and also if you could tell me when those disabled spaces will be provided in Court Street?

Kind regards
Brenda

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