



RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

to
COUNCIL
11 JULY 2024

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. QUESTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's public speaking protocol the following question was received from a member of the public.

2. QUESTION

The following question was received from Mr Tom Kelly on 9 July 2024:

'Were the members of the strategy and resources committee and those of the car park task and finish working group fully aware of the fact that where there were once 10 free parking slots in the white horse lane, that five were removed which led to the chaos of people waiting for slots and that in turn was the excuse put forward by officers and members to remove the final five altogether, which is of no benefit members of the public attending the library, the only remaining bank or quick shopping or donating items to charity shops, as the new ones in the gasworks car park or butt lane are at a distance making it likely they will overstay their welcome.'

3. RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

The Council recognises the value of the 30 minute free parking bays to our residents and visitors, and is committed to ensuring that a number of these remain available to use whilst visiting the Town Centre area.

The White Horse Lane Car Park is our busiest car park, with a significant level of constant vehicle movements during the day. The relocation of free parking bays from this car park should ease the congestion caused by drivers waiting for the bays to become free, whilst retaining a number of free spaces at alternative car parks in the High Street, including Butt Lane and High Street East. We have also increased the number of free spaces in the town. Butt Lane car park is still very convenient for the High Street and the layout of this car park enables movement of cars more efficiently, reduces congestion and exhaust emissions that were being created previously.