



TRANSPORT AND PARKING WORKING GROUP

PROPOSALS FOR DISABLED SPACES IN MAIN CAR PARK

There are currently 3 Disabled parking spaces in the main car park. Previous surveys have shown that the occupancy rate is about 30% by legitimate users i.e. drivers holding a disabled 'blue badge'. It was rare to find all 3 spaces occupied by vehicles displaying a blue badge, but there is widespread abuse by other drivers. This is not just a problem in the main car park.

It is suggested that it may be possible to reduce the number of disabled parking spaces, to release spaces for other users and hence improve the provision of parking within the Town.

WIDTH OF SPACES

A standard parking bay is 2.4m wide. The disabled spaces are the same width but have an additional 1.2m marked area on each side to allow drivers or passengers to open a car door easily. The additional area is 'shared' between the middle spaces.

Removing Space 3 (the one furthest from the entrance to the car park) would free up one further space. Even counting the additional space for door opening does not create enough room for 2 standard spaces.

However, removing the additional door-opening space from Space 2 would create enough room for 2 additional standard spaces. That would still leave a door-opening space for Space 2 but any user would need to park the correct way round.

It is not thought there is any legal requirement to provide a door-opening space on both sides of a disabled bay. Indeed, of the 2 disabled spaces in the High Street (Memorial Park) car park, only one has a door-opening space on both sides.

Please see attached photographs for this proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillors are invited to comment on the proposal to remove Disabled Space 3 and replace it with 2 standard spaces.



3 x Disabled parking bays in main car park



Disabled Bay 3: Proposed to remove this bay and both door spaces

Total space gained = $1.2\text{m} + 2.4\text{m} + 1.2\text{m} = 4.8\text{m}$ for 2 standard spaces



Disabled Bay 2: Shared door spaces on both sides



High Street car park. 3 vehicles parked across the 2 x disabled bays.
No blue badges displayed.

Note left-hand bay has door space on one side only