

## DECISION ARISING FROM THE PRESENTATION OF A PETITION IN RELATION TO PARKING IN GAINSBOROUGH MARKET PLACE

Extract from Minutes of Full Council meeting 2 March 2015

### 78 PRESENTATION OF PETITION

Councillor Mick Tinker introduced Martin Thompson, local businessman of Drewery & Wheeldon, who presented the Chairman with a petition containing over 1,000 signatures which requested the reinstatement of parking provision in the Market Place. Mr Thompson asserted that it was necessary to provide limited parking in the Market Place to rejuvenate the shopping area. The Market Place had lost its vibrancy in recent years, meaning a fall in property prices and lack of shoppers. Whilst Marshall's Yard was a success for Gainsborough there was an impact on the old town and on non-market days the town was dead. The spiral of decline would continue if nothing was done. If limited parking was reinstated, to enable shoppers to access the shops, it would give the impression of activity and lead to an increase in confidence, thereby leading to an increase in occupancy and ultimately prosperity.

The statement from Mr Thompson was greeted with a round of applause in the Chamber. Many Councillors then spoke in support of the proposals, echoing the concerns raised. It was suggested that around two hours would be an appropriate limit for free parking, as 30 minutes would be insufficient, and wholly free would mean that spaces were taken all day by commuters. Similar problems had been experienced in other nearby towns and various initiatives implemented to resolve the issues. It was felt by some that other regeneration work was also needed to revitalise the market place, such as accommodation, and it was suggested that the new hotel would help to bring a feelgood factor.

The Chairman of the Challenge and Improvement Committee noted that a parking review was underway and that the Committee had asked for pre-scrutiny of the project. The Chief Operating Officer confirmed that a Parking Strategy was indeed in progress and that the petition and subsequent discussion would be fed into the research. Liaison would also be undertaken with the County Council.

Mr Thompson was thanked for his petition and presentation.

Councillor Tinker proposed that the petition be moved forward and work be undertaken to resolve the issues, this was seconded.

**RESOLVED** that the concerns raised by the petition be given due consideration.