

Council – 8th January 2020

Minute 101 – Public Question Time

Jo Webber speaking with regard to item 6 on the agenda stated that she had a business in Tiverton for 26 years. She provided the following 5 concerns with regard to the increase in car parking charges in the multi storey car park:

- The British Independent Retailer Association recently drew up a 5 point plan to save the high street, included in this was 'give free car parking in town centres to increase footfall'.
- The multi storey car park is the gateway to Tiverton. It is often the first point of contact with our town.
- We need to encourage longer dwell times so people stay longer, buy from more than one shop or business.
- Tiverton needs to encourage people to work in the town centre and the tourists to visit.
- Our success is your success. Thriving business means full car parks and good revenue for Mid Devon. Let Tiverton be known as a vibrant exciting town. It takes teamwork and you have the key to make our town successful or empty. Let's do the right thing

Ana Hendy referring to item 6 on the agenda stated that we in the Labour Party at Tiverton Town Council have noticed with some dismay the cost of parking in Tiverton is set to change quite considerably and that the multi storey car park in particular will become the most expensive car park in Mid Devon. We also note that a petition has been started by business owners in the town against these changes. We also question how these proposed changes will affect the town centre plan which has amongst it the ambition of attracting more visitors.

We are disappointed that MDDC have not consulted us at the Town Council on these changes and I in particular as Town Council representative for Central ward feel that before a final decision is made consultation with the Town Council would be appropriate so that the views of our constituents could be fairly represented and taken into consideration.