

## Council – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### Minute 105 – Petition

Mrs Miller presented a petition with 2118 signatures to the Chairman of the Council and outlined the basis for the petition:

We the undersigned want the Mid Devon District Council to not impose excessive fees for local shoppers and workers who use the Multi Storey on a daily basis which may cause them to venture elsewhere and to not take away the free parking currently available at Westexe South and William Street.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 12.2, Mrs Miller addressed the Council raising the following issues: Westexe South car park had a quick turnaround and the free parking allowed people to pop to the shops and have a hair cut within the 30 minutes free parking allowed. Her business had business rates to deal with and rent to pay and that she was afraid that the Westexe part of the town would die. She referred to the free parking available in Gold Street and how the shops benefitted from that, also that the multi-storey car park was used by shop owners and workers in the town and that the shops needed footfall and excessive car parking would not help that.

A debate then took place with the following issues arising:

- The discussions that had taken place with the working group and the recommendations made to the Economy Policy Development Group
- Whether the new charges were excessive and the impact on those who parked all day in the MSCP.
- The 30 minutes free parking that was currently available at Westexe South and at William Street and the need to support local traders.
- The need to encourage the purchase of permits which would reduce the costs.
- The introduction of £1 for 5 hours in long stay car parks that had been put in place in 2011 and the increase to £2 per day which had also proved popular.
- The impact of increased charges on the town and the need to listen to those who had signed the petition.
- The need for a clear recommendation to the Cabinet

It was therefore **RECOMMENDED** to the Cabinet that the decision to increase parking charges in Tiverton specifically the Multi-Storey Car Park and the loss of 30 minutes free parking in Westexe South and William Street be reconsidered.

(Proposed by Councillor N V Davey and seconded by Councillor R J Chesterton).

Upon a vote being taken, the **MOTION** was declared to have been **CARRIED**.

Note: Councillor C J Eginton declared a personal interest as he owned a business in Tiverton.