

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Response to Statistics prepared by Oadby Town Centre Association – response shown in blue font

Dear Mr Dukes

Ref: PARKING SURVEY

As agreed at the hearings last week, I attach statistics which show that the timing of the Council's Parking Survey 2012 severely understates the parking problem in Oadby. By choosing January to carry out the survey, the results are likely to be at least 27% lower than if the survey had been done in March, June or September. These national statistics accord with my Oadby DIY turnover figures which show January on average to be 28% below the equivalent March, June or September figure.

The car parking survey was carried out in response to representations received in response to the public consultation on the Publication Draft Area Action Plan which closed in December 2011. The survey therefore had to be carried out between then and submission of the Area Action Plan.

The Survey was carried out in early/mid January at a time when January sales would have been taking place and included peak periods of each day. In the Hearing Sessions the Council referred to a previous parking survey that had been carried out with results presented in the Baseline Report (June 2007) which showed that at a time when the economy was more buoyant, there was still spare capacity in Oadby's car parks.

In the Hearing Sessions the Council also made the point that the Council's car parks are used by people visiting the town for a wide range of different uses and this does not always involve shopping.

The Council has now accepted that there are also 36 currently-private parking spaces which will disappear and will add to the problem, as will the extra parking needs resulting from the staff and customers of the proposed Baxter's Place development.

The Council's response to this issue is dealt with in the last 2 paragraphs of the Council's Car Parking in Oadby – Update paper (Document Library ref: Q2).

We strongly believe that all these figures illustrate the need to maximise the number of available parking spaces and not to allow the construction of residential or community-use buildings on land which could otherwise provide parking spaces to help regenerate the Town Centre.

The Council's regeneration proposals for Oadby town centre include a range of different proposals and initiatives to support the town and the Borough as a whole over the plan period. This includes retail, employment, community and residential.

Yours Sincerely

David Fletcher
Chairman OTCA