

## Oadby Forum 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012

### Oadby Town Centres Area Acton Plan

#### Update on Car Parking Issues

##### **1. Public Consultation**

- Public consultation took place between 28 October and 9 December 2011

##### **2. Comments Received**

Many representations were in the form of a generic letter prepared by the Oadby Town Centre Association. The letter expressed concerns about the following issues:

- Reduction in the number of car parking spaces (particularly in East Street car park)
- The possible implementation of car parking charges
- The Phasing of the proposals and the impact upon the number of car parking spaces

##### **3. Council Response**

- Councillors have given further consideration to the proposal for East Street car park and have agreed that there should be no loss of public car parking spaces in Oadby
- As a result, the public square has been redesigned to allow shared use, so that it can accommodate car parking when not being used for public events
- The shared use public square will be able to accommodate 26 car parking spaces, including spaces for disabled drivers
- The retail/leisure units to the south of the square have been removed, but the south facing retail/leisure units and residential development to the north are retained
- A high quality of public realm (eg street furniture, surfacing and planting) is planned which will make it will feel like a public square when being used as such
- Better use of space in the rest of the car park (eg by following the eastern boundary of the car park to the south of the Methodist Church), has enabled an additional 9 spaces to be identified
- The Council is committed to keeping free shopper's car parking throughout the borough. It is now one of the very few councils in the country to still do this.

##### **4. The Outcome of this will be:**

- A solution has been found so that most of the development proposed for East Street car park can be delivered without any loss to the current number of public car parking spaces in Oadby
- The Council has submitted the Town Centres Area Action Plan for Public Examination to The Planning Inspectorate and has asked the independent Planning Inspector to make the above changes to the Masterplan

##### **5. The Next Steps are:**

- The Public Examination is where the independent Planning Inspector will decide whether the Area Action Plan is justified, effective and consistent with national policy
- The Planning Inspector is likely to hold a 'Hearing' as part of the Examination – a meeting when those who have already made comments on the Area Action Plan can put forward their views in person to the Inspector. This is likely to take place in week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> June.

##### **Further Information**

- Full details of the Public Examination are on the Council's website at: [www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/pages/town\\_centre\\_masterplans](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/pages/town_centre_masterplans)
- The Council has appointed Stephen Dukes, an independent Programme Officer to administer the Public Examination. His contact details are:  
email: [stephen.dukes@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.dukes@oadby-wigston.gov.uk), telephone: 0116 257 2656