

Waterloo Car Park – proposals for a decked car park

On 22 February 2017 Members of Cotswold District Council voted unanimously to provide the Cirencester Parking Demand Project Board with up to £225,000 for the for design and planning work related to the proposed decked car park at The Waterloo site in Cirencester. The following is a brief synopsis of the facts which support the development of the Waterloo for this purpose:

- The Cirencester Parking Board was formed two years ago to tackle the problem of high demand for car parking spaces in the town during peak periods.
- The Board commissioned independent specialist consultants to investigate the town's car parking capacity and develop workable solutions to provide more spaces based on objective professional assessments.
- The consultants recommended a number of feasible options to expand car parking capacity, and their findings showed that the most effective (priority 1) solution was the installation of decking at the Waterloo Car Park.
- Notwithstanding this independent recommendation, the Waterloo Car Park has been earmarked for decked parking for nearly 20 years, and this proposal was included in the area's previous local plan 2001 – 2011. Moreover, the emerging Local Plan (2011-2031) also supports the proposal.
- The Board believed that sufficient preparatory work had been done on the Waterloo proposal to warrant applying formally for funding from the Council. Now that this funding has been granted, it will enable the planning stage to proceed, as well as making funds available for the appointment of an Architect.
- Decking the Waterloo will signal a significant step forward for Cirencester's future prosperity, enabling residents, visitors and local traders to benefit from the additional car parking capacity which it will provide.
- The Board is aware that there are a range of local sensitivities that must be addressed, and will continue to consult with local stakeholders, including residents in the vicinity of the Waterloo site.
- Working with the local community, the Board will aim to achieve the most sympathetic solutions regarding the look, feel and impact of a decked Waterloo site.
- The Waterloo proposal is just one of a range of options to ease demand for parking in the town. Others include: developing other existing car parking sites; creating new parking sites; introducing more long and short-term parking options; establishing park and ride schemes; and encouraging the public to use healthy alternative transport options such as walking and cycling.
- The Board is also looking to create 'decant' sites to accommodate parking requirements while existing spaces are out of commission during construction work at the Waterloo and elsewhere.

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