

Congratulations on some excellent and forward thinking proposals. I hope you will also consider one of mine.

This idea was born out of my continued hope for more car parking facilities in our town, a concern shared by many I feel. I am forwarding my proposal in the hope that it gets to someone who agrees that this idea has merit and is in a position to put it forward or consider it.

I have read the proposal to alter Albert street, allowing one way traffic and creating 13 car parking spaces. I would like you to consider my alternative which should generate upwards of 35 spaces.

My proposal for altering traffic flow and creating more parking in this area of town involves the use of Hope Street rather than Albert Street, i know the area well as i have traded for many years here. As you know Albert street has two entry points into Garden Street carpark, this carpark is a highly used parking area and one of the largest in the town and is essential to our economy. I would like to see a similar layout applied to Hope Street. The entire street to be a carpark, from the A646 entry point opposite the picture house up to the north end at Lloyds Bank/library. Through traffic to be allowed as is the case in Garden street carpark in one direction. I estimate we will be able to create a around 40 new car parking spaces. I see this as a viable solution to the towns urgent parking needs with minimal disruption to existing properties as there are few to consider. One side of Hope street is the church grounds and library, minimal disruption here. The other side is Francine Turner letting, the old police station and approximately three terrace houses which currently do not have on street parking and would quite likely benefit from car spaces which would be free after 6pm. I would imagine the letting agency would also welcome parking at their doorstep. Buses could be moved to the adjacent Albert street or use existing stops on New Road. Hope street is a very wide quiet street with little traffic or footfall, other than buses and passengers.

To summarise, the main advantages would be:

1. A carpark opposite the Picture House cinema
2. Daytime town centre car parking spaces which are badly needed
3. A carpark for library users
4. No disruption to existing traffic flow or businesses on Albert Street
5. A carpark near to the memorial gardens/canal side walks
6. Improved overnight car parking facilities for residents of Hope street and nearby residents
7. No need to alter traffic light systems at junction of Albert street and A646
8. Existing pedestrian crossing on New Road connecting Hope Street to Picture House/ tourist information/ memorial gardens is already in place
9. Access from this new Hope street carpark to Crown street will benefit a number of businesses
10. May help with your proposal for more pedestrianised areas around the top of Crown St as would alleviate removal of any parking in the proposed area.

I would hope you will see the benefits of such a scheme and the comparatively low cost of implementation, I would appreciate your help in putting this idea forward. I also think this idea could work for Albert Street itself however you are probably aware of the very large trucks and wagons which are necessary for stocking the 3 pubs, a difficulty not present on Hope street.

I would also like to ask what provisions are you considering for my and other existing businesses on Albert Street regarding loading and unloading in the event you put on street parking in front of mine and others premises.

yours sincerely
Patricia Banyard