

**AGENDA ITEM 12 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

Dear Mr Burchnall

Thank you for your time on the telephone yesterday. Further to our conversation I would like to register, with Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council, my disappointment at the soon to be introduced parking arrangements at Booths.

I was shocked to hear that their plans are going ahead without any consultation with representatives of the town. I feel it will be detrimental to such a thriving place by dictating that people can only stay two hours in this car park. Of course, I acknowledge that often a supermarket shopping trip will take less than the two hours and will usually take advantage of the first free hour. However, living five miles away in Arkholme, there are many occasions when we try and combine a number of tasks/appointments, including maybe having lunch, while we are in Kirkby Lonsdale. The many visitors who spend several hours in the town will be compromised, too. I'm quite sure many of them shop in the supermarket when they choose to park there, so Booths is not missing out.

Apart from Christmas when car parks everywhere are pretty full, I don't think there are any times when people who wish to shop at Booths cannot use the car park. Most local people know to avoid the only other busy time - school drop-off and pick-up, when anyway, most of these motorists will be taking advantage of the free first hour, so won't be adding to the coffers. Of course there are other car parks in the town, but these are often full - in particular Market Square (not available one day a week) and New Road.

The fact that the new Parking Eye car park will have charges 24/7 proves that it is primarily just a money-grabbing plan and not to facilitate shoppers at Booths. After all, the supermarket isn't open 24/7. I don't think anyone would mind paying for the time they use the car park. It's the two hour restriction I find offensive.

When Booths first opened in Kirkby Lonsdale, we welcomed its arrival and felt it would benefit the town by bringing more people in who would then patronise other businesses. I think to a great extent this has been the case. Therefore, I'm sorry to see them make such a hostile move, whilst pretending it's to enhance our shopping experience.

I hope that the Town Council will be able to make peoples' strong views on this matter clear to Booths.

Yours sincerely  
Cecilia McPhail