

EXTENSION OF CHARTER MARKET IN MARKET SQUARE

Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council and Kirkby Lonsdale & Lune Valley Community Interest Company are committed to making the town as pedestrian-safe as possible, while still ensuring the economic viability of the town. This view is supported by the town's Chamber of Trade.

Thursday's Charter market in Market Square has expanded greatly through the management efforts of Geraud UK. Footfall in the town has increased as Covid restrictions eased. Market Square has on-street parking on Market Day, which (1) presents difficulties for market customers/traders, and (2) restricts further expansion of the market.

On-street parking is free and is controlled by Cumbria County Council. There are two disabled parking spaces which should be retained. Access is also required to properties in Jangling Lane and Auction Mart Yard.

Removing general on-street parking on Thursdays, and re-positioning the disabled spaces, would improve pedestrian safety and allow a small but important expansion of the market. A risk assessment is necessary to cover the safety of pedestrians and enable slow, controlled, movement of a minimum amount of traffic. Barriers, cones, signage and stewarding would be necessary on market days.

Cumbria County Council are not opposed to removing on-street parking on Thursdays. There is a similar situation in Ulverston. They make the point that the KL Market Charter probably does not distinguish the actual market area, and therefore could include the adopted highway. If correct, the market could expand. They also advise that they may have to stipulate conditions to ensure exemptions for disabled parking and residential traffic.

In Kirkby Lonsdale, the process could take 6-12 months. The cost of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is given as £5k+. New signage and moving parking bays could cost a further £3k-£4k. Local funding may speed up the process as the CCC budget is at full stretch.

These initial figures are assumed to be ball park figures. The closing of Market Square to on-street parking on Thursdays - in perpetuity - would therefore cost in the region of £10k as a one-off cost. **It is proposed that the three directly interested parties, the town council, the CIC and the CoT, agree to contribute to the cost, perhaps equally. The Town Council will be asked to firstly agree this proposal in principle. It will further be asked to underwrite the total cost of this scheme while encouraging the other parties, including CCC, to contribute towards the cost of the scheme**

This paper is being served separately to the Town Council, the CIC and the Chamber with the invitation to consider further and to comment. As the County Council requires the local member to be supportive, the paper will also go to our local member, Coun Nick Cotton, with the invitation to express his views to the three organisations.

It is proposed that the Town Council take the lead on this project as it is for the benefit of the town. The agreement, should it be obtained, should be between the county council and the town council. The Town Council would eventually authorise the CIC to implement the agreed conditions around an expanded, pedestrianised, Thursday market.