

## **Written response to a question put regarding car parking and traffic management in Rodbourne**

Response to question put by Councillor Jane Milner-Barry regarding car parking and traffic management in Rodbourne, around the area of the Outlet Centre, specifically, why had the Council not applied conditions relating to the car parks when the McArthur-Glen Outlet Centre had submitted planning applications for expansion.

In response to that question, Councillor Fionuala Foley, in her capacity as (former) Cabinet Member for Highways and the Environment provided the following response:

Dear Cllr Milner-Barry

I am providing a written response to the question you raised at scrutiny.

I understand the question query was around why haven't conditions imposed regarding matters of access / parking been enforced following recent decisions relating to the expansion of the GWDOV.

In replying it is helpful to revisit the birth of the centre which was formed following an application made in 1998. The access and car parking arrangements were found to be appropriate by the planning committee who granted permission at that time.

The original permission imposed a condition that set a maximum retail floor space of 18331sq m.

A subsequent application in 2002 to vary that condition to allow an increase up to a maximum of 2300 sq m of retail floorspace was submitted and again found acceptable by the planning committee who resolved to grant permission. No further car parking was proposed or required at that time. Rather, the vitality of the centre was secured and a listed building was preserved.

The application was however 'called in' for determination by the Secretary of State and following a public Inquiry into the proposal, he granted permission.

No additional car parking / access requirements were imposed on his grant of permission as he noted that some 1838 parking spaces were available and agreed with the applicant, LPA and the Inspector that the centre was well located to enable access by walking public transport and cycling in addition to the car. This permission enabled the 'Long Shop' to be refurbished and incorporated into the centre.

All subsequent applications have reconfigured the space such that the 2300 sq m quantum of retail space has not been exceeded.

There are therefore no recent conditions relating to the matters of concern as the relevant conditions / control go back decades and are from a time when the current issues were not envisaged and problems experienced had not arisen.

Councillor Fionuala Foley