

Agenda Item 11g

AGENDA ITEM 11(g) - Parking and COVID

Amendment

Delete last paragraph and replace with:

Given the unique challenges that Covid presents for our business community, Council welcomes the announcement that the previous parking discount offered in September, where an additional hour of free parking was available on top of any period of paid parking at 4 car parks adjacent to key shopping areas, is to be renewed for December to support high streets. Council further notes that the purpose is to provide extra time for shoppers who may have to queue for longer than usual due to Covid rules and to encourage those who have already made the decision to use their cars to dwell longer. The Council encourages everyone to Shop Local this Christmas.

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Steve Pitt

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

The Motion to therefore read:

The COVID pandemic has hit both the retail and hospitality sectors hard, with a deep and permanent reduction in the level of employment and business activity the likely result.

For many struggling retailers a successful Christmas is essential. Without it, a wave of store closures after the January sales must be probable.

Council acknowledges the impact that COVID has had on its own finances and that as things stand, tax receipts are likely to be lower and expenditure higher than originally planned. It however notes its own exposure to the business sector and that a further decline will mean a drop in business rate income.

Given the unique challenges that Covid presents for our business community, Council welcomes the announcement that the previous parking discount offered in September, where an additional hour of free parking was available on top of any period of paid parking at 4 car parks adjacent to key shopping areas, is to be renewed for December to support high streets. Council further notes that the purpose is to provide extra time for shoppers who may have to queue for longer than usual due to Covid rules and to encourage those who have already made the decision to use their cars to dwell longer. The Council encourages everyone to Shop Local this Christmas.

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