

PROPERTY
MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY
PUBLIC CONSULTATION FEEDBACK
MARCH 2012



1. Purpose

The purpose of this consultation was to seek views of the public on the future use of Burton Street car park prior to recommending to committee any expenditure on resurfacing the car park.

The consultation period was from 16th February until the 28th February 2012.

2. Method

- The public consultation event was advertised in the Melton Times
- Open days with display adverts, staff were present to discuss matters with attendees and questionnaires available for completion
- Website invitation for responses and completed questionnaires
- Leaflet drop
- Email to interested parties

3. Outcome

There were a total of 83 responders. The vast majority considered that the car park (89%) should remain as a car park and be resurfaced/ improved.

4. Specific comments and ideas

- Steps and ramps were considered as important in order to improve walkways.
- Some considered having a 'cycle route' with signs.
- People considered the "Gap" site can be developed when there is demand
- Many people suggested that if shops were built in the "Gap" site the materials and design should be in keeping with the current style.
- Many people saw the need for an information/tourist point to lead newcomers into town

5. Summary of public opinion

- Signage is important
- A "gateway arch" between the car park and the park had mixed reactions some thought it a good idea but many were worried about its appearance
- The idea of a site for stalls and as pitch for mobile commercial units was generally unpopular
- Facilities and access for disabled was considered important by some
- A car park map with 'You are here' sign was suggested
- Many people suggested the Gap as an exit from the car park but the location of new traffic lights prevent this
- Shifting pedestrian access from the main road through a 'green pathway' that is accessible for families and those with limited ability would enhance access and use of Play Close.

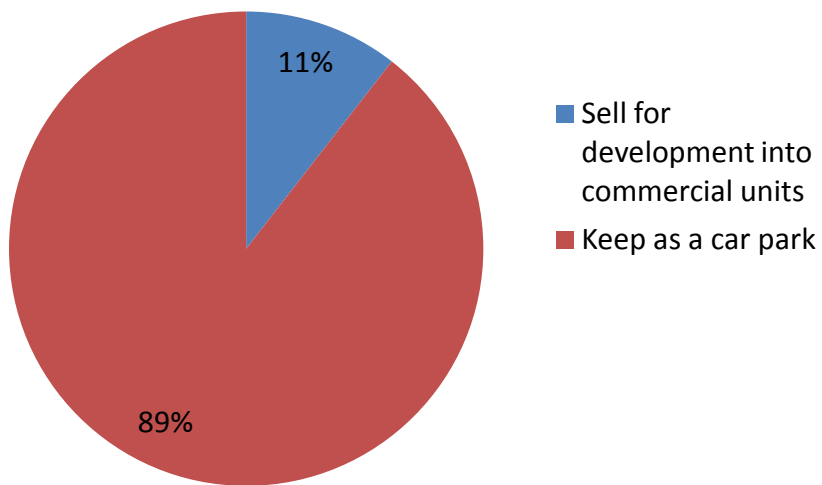
- Some considered having a 'cycle route' with signs.

6. Next Steps

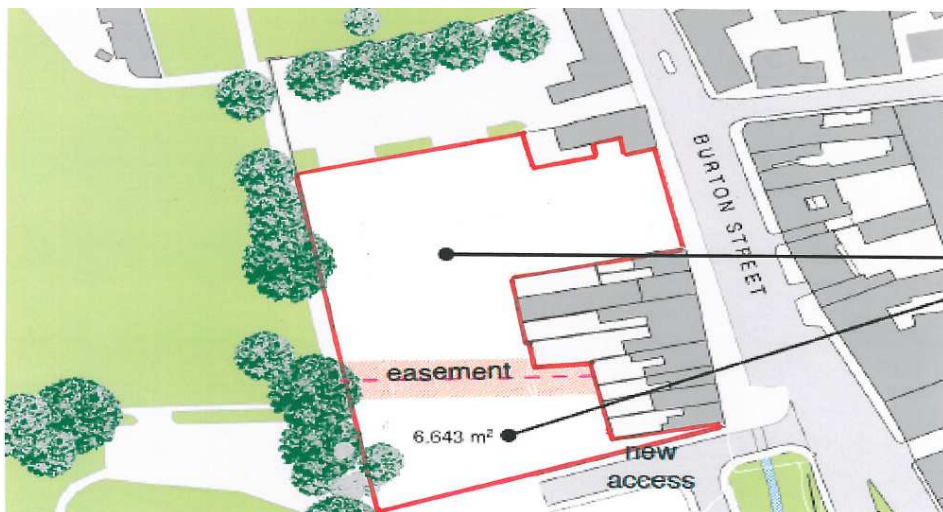
- Report outcome to members
- Feedback outcome to public
- Agree the actions for improving Burton Street in the light of public consultation

7. Public Consultation Analysis

7.1 Options for use of land



Site Plan

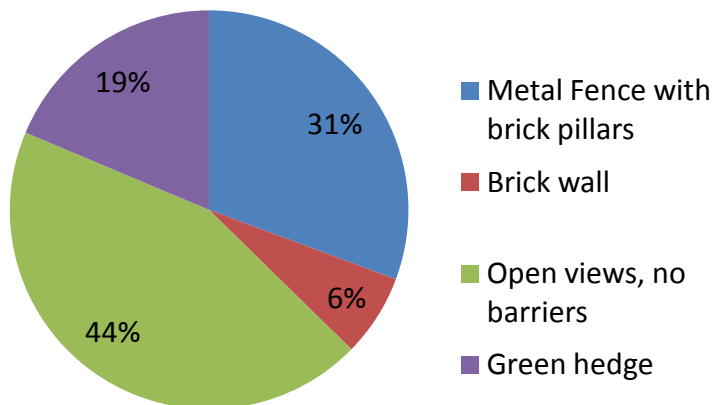


89% of respondents believe the site should be kept as a car park. Respondents believe the car park provides an easy access to town centre and should commercial units be built it would obstruct the view to park close.

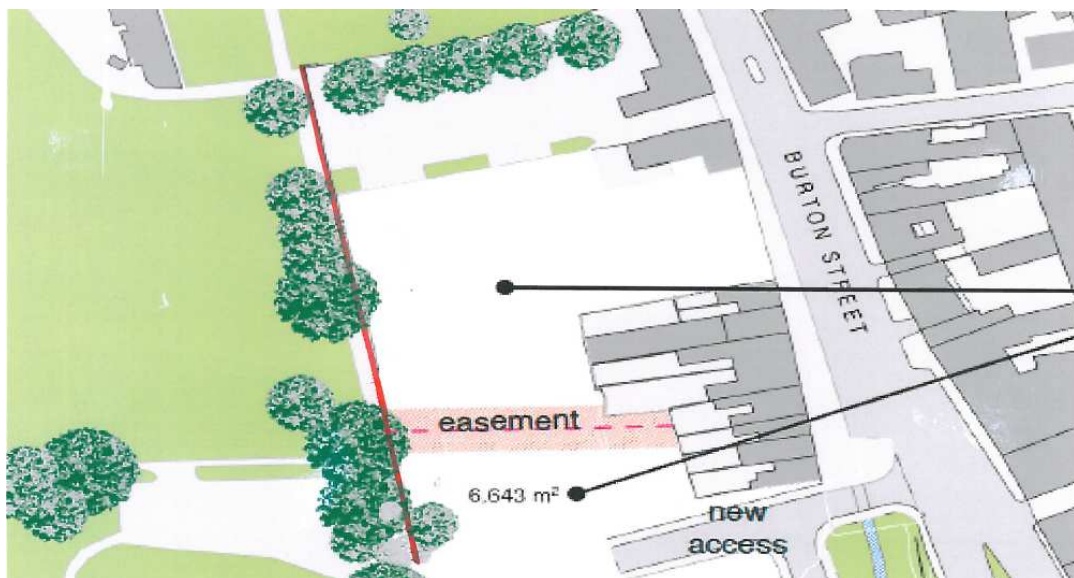
Recommendation

Instruct consultants to design and specify a new surface for a pay and display car park.

7.2 Options for screening car park and Town Estate Park



Site Plan



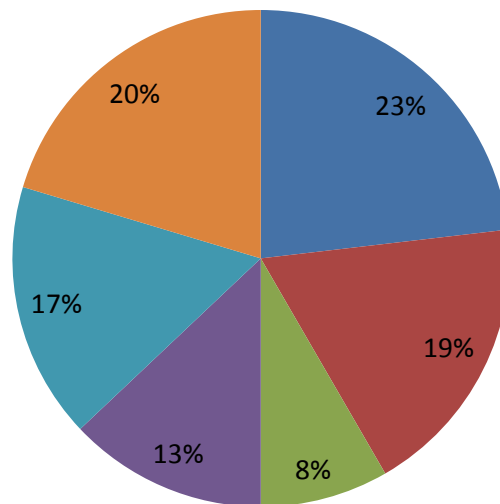
44% of respondents would like to maintain open views to park close, rather than having a brick wall. 19% are open to having metal fences so as long as a gate is provided so people can cross over and the view is not obstructed.

Recommendation

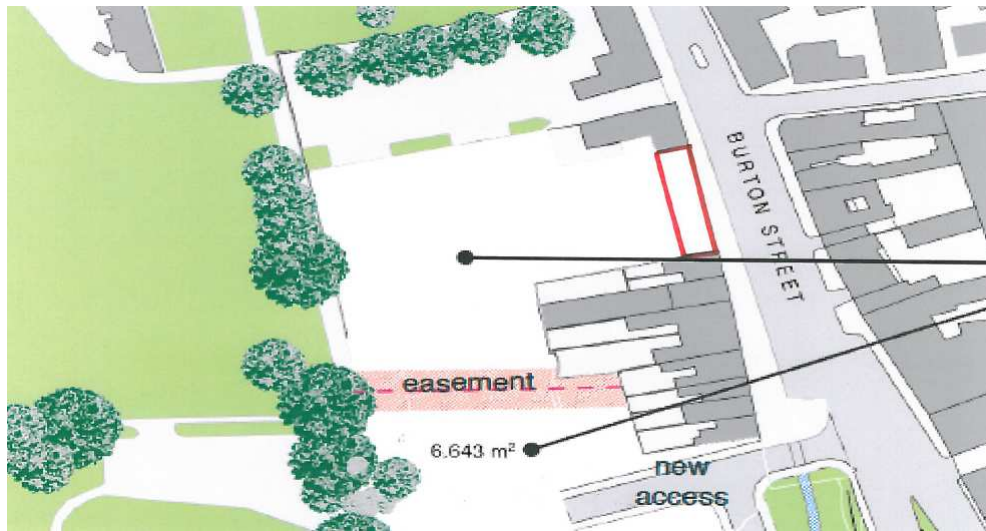
Retain the existing open views to park close and consult with town estate to consider pedestrian access improvements between the car park and the park.

7.3 Options for the use of the “Gap”

- Shops – especially men’s clothing
- Chill-out area – informal area with a few seats and bus shelters
- Formal garden with seats (“Peace Garden”)
- Bicycle storage
- Gallery/ art centre – single storey
- Do nothing –leave it as it is..



Site Plan



23% of respondents believe having a retail outlet covering the gap site would benefit Burton Street. However, 20% of respondents believe that it would be better to keep the site as it is, due to fears of having empty unoccupied buildings or losing car parking space.

Recommendation

Market the “Gap” site for potential disposal, when market conditions improve or there is a perceived demand for new building on Burton Street.