

**Committee:** ENVIRONMENT

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** November 18, 2008

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**Title:** **WHITE STREET CAR PARK / DUNMOW  
TOWN SQUARE**

**Author:** Diane Burrige, Director of Operations (01799 510580) Item for decision

### Summary

1. Great Dunmow Town Council aspires to create a town square on land owned by the District Council. This report updates Members on the report to this Committee in June 2008 and outcome of its recommendations to consult with the community and risk assess the proposed square.

### Recommendations

2. That, Members consider the outcome of the public consultation and risk assessment undertaken by Great Dunmow Town Council and support the arrangements for parking as set out on the attached plan.

### Impact

4.

Communication/Consultation	A public consultation exercise has been undertaken by Great Dunmow Town Council.
Community Safety	Great Dunmow Town Council has undertaken a risk assessment for vehicular access through the square.
Equalities	Blue badge holders will have a slightly less favourable parking position if they need to access the High Street and possibly more favourable if they need to access the supermarket.
Finance	Loss of car parking income estimated at £4,500pa
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	A revision of the parking places order would need to be undertaken.
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	Dunmow wards.

Workforce/Workplace	None
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## Situation

5. The site proposed for Dunmow Town Square is in ownership of Uttlesford District Council as are the public toilets that are on this site. Any transfer of asset would be a matter for consideration at Finance and Administration Committee.
6. Car parking is the responsibility of Environment Committee and it is appropriate that this issue is considered before any asset related proposal is put before Finance and Administration Committee. Members of Community Committee will also be advised of this project as the responsibility for the public toilets adjoining the square will be proposed for transfer along with the land asset.
7. White Street car park has recently benefited from development of the eastern sector of Dunmow. There has been pressure from the business community for additional parking space and the recent adjustments have delivered an additional 22 pay and display spaces and 21 season ticket spaces for businesses.
8. This redevelopment of the area includes provision of a new library; this building will face the proposed town square.
9. White Street is a busy long stay car park, the largest serving the town. The route from the car park to the town would take pedestrians through the town square and into the High Street via a pedestrianised White Street next to the Boar's Head.
10. The area the Great Dunmow Town Council has identified is currently provides 9 parking spaces for Blue Badge Holders. In the revised plan four of those spaces remain in their original location.
11. To achieve the Great Dunmow Town Councils plan five Blue Badge spaces would need to be relocated, the impact of this would be:
  - A slightly greater distance for those disabled persons to walk to get into the town and public toilets.
  - Re designation of parking spaces in the car park for Blue Badge Holders
  - A reduction of 7 pay and display spaces to accommodate the 5 new spaces for Blue Badge Holders.
  - Reduced income (average £650 per space)

Appx 1 – Plan of proposed parking arrangements in the Town Square

App2 – Report of the Project Manager for the proposed Town Square.

App 3 – Letter from Chamber of Trade

## Risk Analysis

13.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That the views of the community and particularly Blue Badge Holders are not considered.	2	2	Great Dunmow Town Council has undertaken a consultation exercise on this proposal and the balance falls in favour of the project.
The mix of vehicles with pedestrians in the proposed square carries risk.	2	2	That Great Dunmow Town Council carries out a full risk assessment for this project.
That legal challenges will be made.	2	2	Careful consideration of the outcome of consultation and risk assessment by both councils.

*1 = Little or no risk or impact*

*2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary,*

*3 = Significant risk or impact – action required*

*4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.*