

**Member Working Group**

Subject: Review of Car Parking Provision in Boston.

Draft: Car Parks Draft Proposal April 2024

Author: Councillor Stuart Evans.

**PROPOSAL:**

**To enlarge the size of car parking spaces in a trial car park to gauge the response from the public.**

**THE FACTS:**

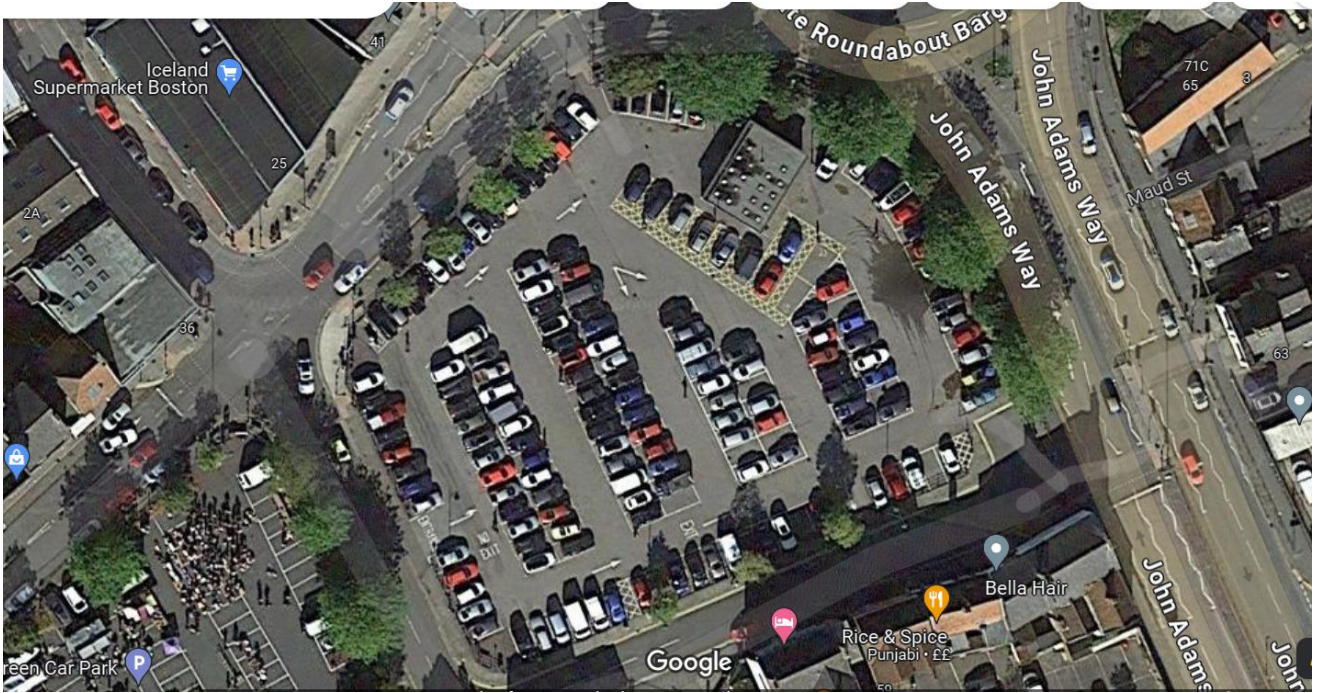
- 1) There are no Boston Borough Council owned car parks that are full most of the time.
- 2) Car Park revenues are falling for whatever reason.
- 3) The car park surfaces are still relatively in good condition, but the painted lines don't last as long.
- 4) We are all desperately seeking ways to increase the Town Centre footfall, so far, with little success.
- 5) Cars are getting bigger. Or are they? YES...  

The 1967 Escort Mk1	was	1.57m wide.
The 1980 Mk3	was	1.64m.
The 1992 Mk5	was	1.68m.
The 1999 Mk8	was	1.80m.

The Escort replacement (Focus) 2018 Mk3 is 1.85m.  
I think that is conclusive.
- 6) People are getting bigger? I think we can all agree on that one.

**THE CURRENT AREA PARKING-SPACE SIZES:**

LIDL	(Alban Park)	2.76m
Tesco	(Wyberton)	2.45m
Medical Centre	(Kirton)	2.41m
McDonald's	(Wyberton)	2.40m
LIDL	(Town)	2.40m
B & Q	(Wyberton)	2.36m
Brewers Fayre	(Premier)	2.34m
Alban Park	(B&M)	2.32m
Bargate Car Park	(Town)	2.29m - 2.41m
Pilgrim Hospital	(Boston)	2.29m
ASDA	(Boston)	2.27m



The Cattlemarket Parking Spaces are 2.40m. If we changed this trial Car Park to bigger 2.80m spaces and advertised the fact that the prices are the SAME as before, we would relatively quickly see the effect on parking revenues compared to those of the other car parks. We have, of course, several years of statistics to compare to.

The experiment needs to use a car park handy for town shops, so the Cattlemarket is the ideal candidate.

Another important factor is that the lines are wearing rather thin, so it is due for repainting anyway.



## THE SURVEY:

I felt that it would be interesting to try to gauge the public opinion on the subject, so I carried out a simple survey at several locations. Brothertoft, Tesco Car Park, & as I went leafletting in my ward. I asked 102 people just 4 simple questions:

- 1) Do you think that the width of parking spaces these days are satisfactory for today's vehicles?
- 2) Would you walk an extra 100m to the shops from a car park that had 14" wider spaces, if there was no extra cost?
- 3) Would you pay just £1 extra for a 14" wider parking space?
- 4) Do you think wider parking spaces would encourage more people to shop in Boston Town Centre?

## THE SURVEY RESULTS: (102 sample)

- 1) Do you think that the width of parking spaces these days are satisfactory for today's vehicles?

**YES: 16      NO: 86      DK: 0      (85%)**

- 2) Would you walk an extra 100m to the shops from a car park that had 14" wider spaces, if there was no extra cost?

**YES: 80      NO: 18      DK: 4      (79%)**

- 3) Would you pay just £1 extra for a 14" wider parking space?

**YES: 51      NO: 49      DK: 2      (50.5%)**

- 4) Do you think wider parking spaces would encourage more people to shop in Boston Town Centre?

**YES: 48      NO: 42      DK: 12      (47.1%)**

## THE DEMOGRAPHICS:

The current Cattle market Car Park contains... 144 standard spaces, 10 disabled & 6 electric charging bays.

After the changes (assuming increasing to 10 Charging bays) 120 standard, 10 disabled & ultimately 10 Electric Bays. This is only 17% less spaces. If the car park was full a lot of the time, this could be viewed as a potential loss, but empty spaces earn nothing. I feel that these new wider spaces will very soon become popular and THEN the car park may be full more of the time. If this proves to be the case, then other car parks would need to follow suit. If ever Boston runs out of spaces, then the experiment will have been a great success.

It is also my view that very few, if any, of the private car parks will enlarge their spaces, as they may view the costs to be unjustified without proof.

## CCTV:

The Cattle market Car Park is already covered by current CCTV, so I do not envisage any changes to the CCTV aspects of this proposal.

## PAYMENT FACILITIES:

There are two ticket machines in this car park and that seems sufficient. I do not envisage any increase or decrease to the number of ticket machines, or indeed any change to the tariff or programming.

## THE COST OF IMPLEMENTATION:

The very simple changes would be removal of old lines – filling of any potholes – Re-lining of the wider parking bays – Replacing the Car Park sign to announce the WIDER spaces.

Using the recent costs of changing the Municipal Car Park in West St, I have calculated the approximate costs to the Cattlemarket car park.

Removal of un-needed old lines.... (Very few)	= £ 250.00
Relining of parking bays..... 1,057.1m @ £0.85	= £ 898.54
Any other lines not foreseen...	= £ 500.00
Replacing Signage..... (Possibly, existing good)	= £ 250.00
Estimated Costs including "Provision"	<b>= £1,898.54 +VAT</b>