

6/2018/1057/FULL

Although the proposals are for a car free development there is no way of ensuring this and with the parking restrictions lifting at 6pm Monday-Saturday residents will likely use the parking on-street rather than use public car parks.

There are a number of restaurants and other establishments which rely on these parking spaces for their customers. Businesses have reported in recent years that parking in the evenings and weekends is becoming more difficult for their customers, with the number of residential properties which have been created from commercial properties and there have concerns about the lack of parking putting customers off and going to other locations.

The Council receive requests regularly from residents living in the town centre wanting somewhere to parking closer to their homes. As this is a town centre, the council do not provide resident's permits to park in the roads, and they are supposed to use the car parks, but this rarely happens.

I have significant concerns with regards to the further impact to businesses in the town centre relating to this development and feel the council should be protecting these areas for their customers and assisting the growth of the evening trade.

Especially as Hertfordshire County Council are looking at changing the town centre layout, which would reduce on-street parking as a whole with the intention of improving the environment for all visitors with particular attention to pedestrians.