Working together to create the new Waterloo car park

We welcome your continuing feedback every step of the way –

Please see www.cotswold.gov.uk/parkingproject to find frequently asked questions and progress updates. If you have any queries about the project please email parking@cotswold.gov.uk, call us on 01285 623000 or write to Parking Team, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX.

We are also available on Twitter and Facebook.

PARKING Cirencester

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Working together to create the new Waterloo car park

We know we need more parking spaces in Cirencester. The Council owns most of the car parks in the town, and developing the best solution to the parking problem is one of our key priorities as part of an overall Masterplan to improve the town. The Waterloo car park has been identified as the most suitable site for expansion. This was not unexpected as the same site was identified as the most suitable location for a multi-storey car park in the 2011-31 Local Plan.

Over the last eighteen months we have been consulting residents, neighbourhood groups and other interested parties to gather views about the creation of the new Waterloo car park. We have had some enthusiastic support for our proposal but some specific concerns have also been raised, including:

- Increased air, light and noise pollution, loss of light and shading
- Flood risk from the nearby River Churn
- Availability of alternative parking to offset loss of the Waterloo during construction

And people have also made several suggestions, including:
- A site out of town with park and ride facilities
- Mixed use development at the car park – with housing or shops.

How are we responding?

We have

- appointed Stripe Consulting, a leading specialist in car park structures, to produce specifications for the operational elements of the car park, including the best layout. They will also address issues such as air quality, traffic management, size of bays, payment systems, and road layout
- commissioned an independent assessment of the project's environmental impact, and will use this to mitigate potential issues such as effect on the town's heritage and townscape, future traffic and transport trends, and air quality.

We will

- as part of the planning process: work to reduce flooding risk and ambient noise levels; check for contaminated land; respect ecological concerns such as wildlife habitats and plants; and take full account of climatic factors. In early 2019 there will be a ground survey to assess the site's load bearing capacity.
- engage the Royal Institute of British Architects to find the best architect for the Waterloo job. The selection process will include running a design competition to ensure the exterior complies with the very highest quality standards, and addresses risks raised by local people.
- continue to identify alternative parking to offset the loss of spaces during the proposed work at the Waterloo. Subject to planning consent and legal agreements, we will develop land at Cirencester Rugby Club to accommodate about 150 parking spaces for permit holders (Mondays to Fridays). We will consult with local residents to discuss the best way to manage traffic flows in and out of the Rugby Club car park.
- develop an effective long-term parking strategy. This will focus on short stay car parking in the heart of the town, medium stay at sites such as the Waterloo, and long stay commuter parking at locations such as the Beeches car park and the Rugby Club.
- no longer pursue park and ride options. We believe the best solution is to focus our efforts on increasing the number of car park spaces in the town centre.

At present we estimate that work should start on the site early in 2020. Construction should be completed in just less than one year.