

Accompanying note; explaining the reasons for presenting this Petition to Selby District Council on 27 September 2022 to save the Central Area Car Park in Tadcaster

The attached petition contains the original names of members of the public who have objected to the development of the Central Area Car Park in Tadcaster for housing. The names of all the objectors have been collected via either, a paper petition which was circulated throughout the town and also by an online petition which was organised, on behalf of the petition group, by Change.org. The sheets are therefore presented in two formats and are in hard copy, which is how we were advised to present it to Council. There are in total of approximately 3100 objectors names on both lists. Some names on the manual list have been redacted to avoid duplication.

The purpose of this petition is to remind Selby Council and the elected representatives of Tadcaster's residents of the strength of Public feeling on this matter and urge the Council to remove the proposal to build an underground car park as an alternative to replacing the Central Car Park with housing from the Local Plan.

The proposal to build an underground car park does not solve the town centre car parking needs. It does not provide a 'like for like' alternative. It will cost too much; is going to be a Civil Engineering nightmare; will cause untold damage to the economy of the town during any archaeological excavation, ground works and construction period; will potentially pose a risk on listed buildings and cause excessive disturbance, noise, dust, pollution and traffic dislocation for an unseemly period. The expected 'whole life costs' will leave Tadcaster with a 'millstone' legacy.

The Central Area Car Park is the 'beating heart' of Tadcaster and heavily used on a daily basis. It is an essential community asset, very useful to residents, workers, shoppers, businesses and visitors. The central location provides easy access to many of the town's small businesses. It has the capacity for large events at the Riley Smith Hall, the town's churches, the Annual Christmas Market and other local celebrations and activities, such as the Remembrance Day Parade..

The unanimity of responses to this petition against the proposal demonstrates that there was never a mandate sought from the community prior to putting forward the proposal to build an underground car park in Tadcaster or to develop the Central Area Car Park for housing. The Selby Local Plan option to build houses on the Central Area Car Park, as it stands, is neither a feasible, viable or deliverable proposition and is not in the long term interests of the town. The scheme should be dropped before any more monies are wasted in taking it any further.

The regeneration of Tadcaster will happen one day. Central to this will be a requirement to provide more homes and shops and better facilities for visitors and residents including more town centre car parking.

Patrick Tunney and Bill Oldroyd, On behalf of Petition organisers - September 2022.