

Mayors Report

Welcome to one and all

I can report as follows

Town Centre Recovery Meetings 3/7/20 and 14/7/20

Mayors and Deputy Mayors of Leek Biddulph and Congleton have met along with the Leader SMDC Sybil Ralphs cabinet members and officers of the SMDC / High Peak Alliance

The needs of the 3 towns were different in many respects but all agreed that stimulus was needed as we emerged from the lockdown

Discussions included car parking provision including more disabled spaces and the costs of parking as we try to increase footfall into the towns shopping areas

I understand that Parking charges will be suspended for stays up to 3 hours throughout August on all SMDC operated car parks

I hope that will be successful and that its extended further - in line with our original requests for a 3-month moratorium on all charges on all car parks

The extended pedestrian areas we petitioned for in Derby Street have been created by installation of the barriers. This is proving effective and we have all seen the clear benefit of the additional space created. This was always a public health issue but it has raised other issues too - and we have asked for 10 additional disabled spaces across the town centre car parks

There is an appetite for pedestrian zones, and this is being investigated by the relevant authorities with various options explored as we reconfigure our High streets in a post Covid world

The Trestle market was also discussed and as this matter is called in, I will not comment beyond saying I was assured by the Leader "there is room for everyone" and also that the "Churnet room in Moorlands House is available" for certain types of Events.

The need for events to revitalise the towns had been raised by the Chair and I was able to comment that we are looking forward to getting clarity from SMDC in their interpretation of Govt advice - as we have a number of public event ideas ready to deliver through our Events team

Our Town Clerks office remains closed to the public - although internal meetings have taken place subject to a maximum of 3 persons in the room- that is of course including our Town Clerk

The Covid pandemic is far from over- and we can and must all continue to play our part in suppressing it

Finally, as we all seek to restart our lives in differing ways and with varying degrees of concern, I would ask that in Leek we now show not just resolve and determination, but also patience and understanding

SW21/7/20