

# Pictures and Press Cuttings

wotton-under-edge  
chamber of trade  
www.wotton.biz

If you ever find a Press Cutting that isn't here then it would be appreciated if you could send a copy of it to Trevor Mason at [undertheadgedemedia@gmail.com](mailto:undertheadgedemedia@gmail.com). Many thanks.

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Gazette

## Group to keep up drive for new town car park

**TRADERS are to take plans for a new car park into their own hands after setbacks due to funding cuts.**

Wotton Chamber of Trade has set up a discussion group to find ways to move forward with desperately needed parking plans in the town.

The group will explore the feasibility of the town council buying a piece of land next to the shopping centre for a car park.

Earlier this year, Wotton

by Claire Marshall

[reporters@dursloygazette.co.uk](mailto:reporters@dursloygazette.co.uk)

Town Council set up a working party to consider the prospect of buying the land, which belongs to Renishaw, on the former Stokes Bakery site.

However, the government is advising towns to put a freeze on any precept increases for the next 12 months, so the project was put on hold.

Despite this, members of the chamber were not willing to give up on the car park, which they believe would give a real boost to the town.

Chamber president, Alex Wilkinson, said: "Our members have been getting increasingly frustrated over the lack of parking in the town for many years, and we had hoped that the formation of a working party was a light at the end of the tunnel.

"We are concerned that government policy has forced a delay, so we are trying to preserve what momentum there is by forming our own discussion group and feeding our ideas through as, when and if the group gets going."

Mr Wilkinson added: "The aim of the discussion group would be to consider how such

a project could be financed, taking into account the current fiscal situation."

The group would look at the issues and either come up with a suitable proposal for how to go forward, or determine that the project is unlikely to succeed.

Chairman of Wotton Town Council, Dr John Cordwell, confirmed that the working party had been disbanded.

"We know that county and district councils are being asked not to raise their precepts, and we may be asked to do the same,

we also have the swimming pool costs to factor in, so we didn't want to commit ourselves to something we can't pay for."

Traders wishing to join the discussion group can contact Mr Wilkinson by email [reporters@dursloygazette.co.uk](mailto:reporters@dursloygazette.co.uk) through the chamber's website at [www.wotton.biz](http://www.wotton.biz)

How would you solve Wotton's parking problems? Let us know at [gazetteseries.co.uk/news](http://gazetteseries.co.uk/news)

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Gazette

## Traders call for parking changes

**TRADERS have taken a stand over parking and signed a petition to force the issue onto the council agenda.**

Independent businesses in Wotton-under-Edge have decided to work together to ask Stroud District Council to make changes to The Chipping car park for the benefit of shoppers.

A petition has been sent to the council, who run the car park behind the shoppers' area, to ask them to consider altering the 23 hour unrestricted parking to ensure a quicker turnaround of cars. This, they believe, would benefit the local economy.

Gareth Kitchen, who organised

by Claire Marshall

[reporters@dursloygazette.co.uk](mailto:reporters@dursloygazette.co.uk)

the petition and runs Cookability, said: "The general feeling among the local traders is one of frustration.

"This petition is for residents and shoppers who want to be able to park in Wotton."

Mr Kitchen said that over the years many surveys and data analysis had been carried out, which proved that more short-term car parking spaces were needed in Wotton and yet, he claims, none of this evidence has

been used to better the situation. He added: "We know that most of the spaces in The Chipping are used up by people who work in the town. This blocks up spaces all day that could otherwise be used three or four times over by different shoppers.

"All we want is for Stroud District Council to look at this fairly from local residents' point of view who want a car park to use quickly and conveniently."

More than 30 independent traders signed the petition, which was sent to David Hagg, chief executive of the district council.

He replied in a letter to Mr Kitchen that he would consider the options with the cabinet member for regeneration, Cllr Keith Pearson and cabinet member for community services, Cllr Joe Forbes.

He said: "The fact that so many small traders have signed the petition requires careful consideration."

A response to their request will be given at a later date.

How would you solve parking problems in the town? Let us know at [gazetteseries.co.uk/news](http://gazetteseries.co.uk/news)

For further information contact:  
Trevor Mason

[under-the-edge media](http://www.under-the-edge-media.co.uk)

Tel: +44(0)1453 842655

Mob : +44 (0) 785 4471109

Email: [undertheadgedemedia@gmail.com](mailto:undertheadgedemedia@gmail.com)