



**Winchester**  
City Council

**COUNCIL MEETING – 20 July 2005**

**Question under Council Procedure Rule 14**

**QUESTION 7**

From: Councillor Verney

To: The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Transport

“At present many disabled people find parking in Winchester difficult. Will the Portfolio Holder press urgently for a traffic order variation so that there is constant access to the lower High street immediately above the Broadway for disabled persons only to park between 11AM & 3 PM, when this area is closed to other traffic. Parking close to shops is essential for disabled for whom walking even 50 yards can be a struggle. I know of one disabled couple who have given up on Winchester and are shopping in Eastleigh instead. There will be other such couples.”

**Reply**

“The City Council has reviewed the provision of disabled parking bays in the off-street car parks over the last 12 months, and additional bays have been provided in most car parks. There are however a large number of blue disabled badges that are now issued covering a wide range of disabilities, and in general it is not essential for most disabled badge holders to park immediately in front of the shops they are visiting. As regards the lower end of High Street, disabled badge holders can park in the adjoining side roads in Market Lane or The Square, there are disabled parking bays in the Upper Brook Street and Middle Brook Street car parks, or they can park in The Brooks car park and use the Shopmobility facilities.

During the busiest shopping period between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. it is considered that pedestrians should have exclusive use of as much of the High Street shopping area as possible and it would not therefore be appropriate to allow more vehicles into the pedestrian area than at present. There may also be road safety problems if disabled badge holders are allowed to drive into the pedestrian area when there are large numbers of pedestrians including older people and young children using the area.”