



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

December 2018

Dear Constituent

Save Dumfries town centre

I am writing to thank you for completing my 'Save Dumfries Town Centre' survey. I am very encouraged by the number of responses I received which, I believe, demonstrates the importance local people attach to the regeneration of the town centre.

An analysis of the responses received identified that:

Although a majority of respondents did not think it should be possible to drive through the High Street, many people raised concerns about the distance between the car parks and the town centre. It also became clear that people would like to be able to drive and park closer to the shops if they are just picking up, dropping off or planning to stay there for a very short period of time, i.e. within 30 minutes.

I proposed that one solution to this would be to allow traffic to drive through each end of the High Street to English Street and Great King Street respectively. In my view, this would preserve the High Street while allowing traffic to get closer to the shops and create a thoroughfare in the retail area, therefore encouraging people who would otherwise be discouraged from visiting.

In respect of parking, a number of respondents expressed concern about the lack of spaces for blue-badge holders. Where spaces are available some respondents felt that these are not situated within reasonable walking distance of the town centre for the elderly and those with disabilities.

Respondents felt that more spaces for blue-badge holders should be created in the town centre.

Comments also focussed on the lack of long-term parking spaces for people who work full-time in the town centre and require more than two hours parking time as well as the absence of traffic wardens to monitor the parking situation effectively.

It was felt that a lack of shops and the general untidiness of the town centre were two of the main things deterring people from visiting.

It was suggested that the best way to remedy this would be to reduce rents and create a more residential, community-driven town centre with a greater choice of activities and amenities.

Please respond to:

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There was a strong feeling that the proposed Whitesands Project would have a detrimental effect on the town centre as it would reduce the number of car parking spaces available and dis-incentivise people to visit the town if they could not park.

I recently met with the Chief Executive of Dumfries and Galloway Council, Gavin Stevenson, to hand over the results of the survey and I am pleased that the Council are also prioritising the regeneration of Dumfries town centre through the establishment of a Dumfries Town Centre Action Group. I fully support this group and look forward to monitoring its progress.

Organisations including The Stove Network, which is leading the innovative 'Midsteeple Quarter' project, the Dumfries Makers Market and the Dumfries Retailers Association also have an important contribution to make and it is widely accepted that the regeneration should involve the wider community with ample opportunity for them to feed into the process and put forward their ideas.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alister Jack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alister Jack DL MP
Dumfries and Galloway constituency