

NOVEMBER 2018

This month sees the turning on of the Christmas lights by Caroline Flint at 6pm and the late night shopping evening on Thursday 29th November 2018.

PARKING

Parking was a major issue in the consultations for our Neighbourhood Plan. One clear point was that people do NOT want to see parking charges and your Council has held to this principle.

Then and over the past 3 years we have undertaken surveys on street and in the car park, consulted widely, and investigated how other town centres operate. The conclusion was that there are a variety of needs that should be met. Thus we looked for one hour parking for quick shopping, two hours and three hours for longer stays and unlimited for all day. We also noted that many spaces potentially for customers were occupied by staff employed in local businesses; some of the latter have dealt with this by making arrangements to use pub parking spaces during the day,

The resulting proposal is this (operating 0900 to 1700 Mon. to Fri.):

- (1) One hour restriction along the west side of Market Place and for the first 50 yards approximately of Sunderland Street. This largely reflects current usage.
- (2) Two hour restriction on Castlegate, as now, but clearly advertised.
- (3) Three hour restriction on Town Council shoppers' car park, where too many cars have been parked all day.
- (4) Unrestricted elsewhere.

What is proposed involves only minor changes from the current position but the Council hopes that the results will benefit all local businesses. They face serious competition and we seek to assist them in this way.