

30 March 2012

www.southcotswoldramblers.org.uk

Stroud District Council
cc Dursley Town Council for information

Dursley Long Stay Car Park consultation 2012

Dear Sir / Madam

We are writing to you as officials of South Cotswold Ramblers, a group within the Ramblers Association whose territory covers the Dursley Area. As part of our activities we try to run a programme of walks which covers the whole of our area, whether from Stroud, Painswick, Tetbury, Wotton-under-Edge, Nailsworth, Berkeley or Dursley.

To us Dursley is a particularly attractive starting point for our walks, with the Cotswold Way running through the middle of the town and being surrounded by an AONB with some of the best walking country in the region. However with numbers frequently exceeding 30 we do need guaranteed parking for periods of more than three hours and, while we have a number of members living in Dursley who like to lead walks from the town they are reluctant to commit to doing so while there is so much uncertainty over parking.

We do not consider that the proposals under consideration provide the solution to the problem. There is no guarantee that the traders will move to the new £50 per annum facility when there is free parking in May Lane. In any case it is highly likely that this car park will remain fairly congested with its proximity to the Old Spot and other businesses.

If you are unable to provide long term parking centrally at a reasonable price, you may find it possible to find a suitable site a little further out in much the same way as Painswick have done with their Walkers Car Park. Either way we feel that the encouragement of walking activities could lead to Dursley becoming the Mecca for walking in the south of the county, in much the same way as Winchcombe with its walking festival further north. This festival attracts walkers from all over the country bringing much business to local traders.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Davis Group Chairman
Mike Garner Walks Programme Coordinator



The group setting off through Dursley on Saturday 24 March 2012