

## **City Council Preferred Options document – Sites Allocations Headington Car Park (site 75)**

### **Headington Action response to consultation**

We note the City Council's preferred option for this site, which is to *“allocate for car-free residential and/or student accommodation. Maximise level of car parking re-provided on the site”*.

Headington Action is strongly opposed to any development of this site if it results in the loss of **any** car parking spaces either **during** construction (ie the Council will make an equal number of parking spaces available nearby) or **post** construction (ie a solution will be found so that any loss of spaces caused by the undercroft will be balanced by additional spaces nearby). Our opposition is founded on the belief that loss of car parking spaces would seriously harm the health of the commercial centre of Headington. We believe there is a real risk that some retailers would be driven away, or seriously financially weakened, and this we would deplore.

That said, we can see potential benefits to the city and Headington in particular from a development on this site. It would clearly contribute to the city's need for housing, which we recognise and understand. More residents in central Headington would also mean more shoppers. And developer contributions under the forthcoming localism bill might fund improvements which have community value.

If a development goes ahead it should be used for residential rather than student accommodation, as this would maximise the financial gain to the retail centre. Furthermore, given the pressing need for more affordable housing we would like to see greater allocation to the affordable rent sector than the current policy of 50%.