

Market Square 2021

The area adjacent to the ARC and used for car parking was originally called Market Square because it was anticipated that a market would be one of the regular activities to take place. It was planned as a partially covered area which initially would occupy what is now the nursery garden. Because the Barracks



was an Army Camp, it was not uncommon for it to become a tented village. These two pictures show the Parade Ground and the Rifle Range during the First World War. The use of tented structures to cover markets and similar venues is not uncommon and would be appropriate for Market Square. An example can be found in the outlet village at Ashford (see below) but there are many locations where this technique is used - particularly for wedding marquees in the countryside and the like.



The virtue of such structures is that because they are temporary structures they do not necessarily need planning permission. Use of such a structure to produce covered car parking and accessible parking for disabled visitors to the ARC could significantly improve the safe access to the building which is not alien to the Barracks. Because this area of the Barracks is in the conservation area it would almost certainly need conservation area consent but if it is the kind of structure which can be readily dismantled, it poses no long term threat to the conservation area and it would protect the paving stones

of much of the car park from the forces which have eroded it.

A market zone set out in retractable bollards and with visually well defined parking spaces could therefore provide parking under cover as well as market stalls. This initiative is intended to allow outside activities in a post Covid era and allow for joined up indoor and outdoor spaces which complement one another and provide a more sustainable venue for the ARC.



This example is made of PVC and provides cafe capacity alongside stalls which can be open sided and incorporate car parking.

It would be sensible to cover some or all of the nursery garden (which previously boasted a sail cloth) to protect the children from the sun and which could be incorporated into the canopy cover across the face of the ARC whilst leaving the area adjacent to Boundary Point uncovered. Such plans will require architectural design as well as the complete repair and restoration of the car park. Provisional work is now being done to cost a facility of this kind and explore funding opportunities.