



December 2023

OFFICIAL STATEMENT
KIRKGATE PLANTERS & PARKING RESTRICTIONS, OTLEY

The planters remaining in place after Covid restrictions were lifted made very little sense for shoppers or businesses. Despite our repeated efforts to engage with Otley Town Council and have the planters removed, we were knocked back at every occasion.

It's a relief the planters have now been removed and we continue to lobby for the parking to be re-instated as it was pre-Covid. This is supported by our business community following our survey in November 2023, which came after a Trade and Tourism Committee Meeting with Otley Town Council where we discussed whether there was any room for compromise in relation to the planters and the parking restrictions. The results of the survey were as follows:

1. **5.8%** of business owners wanted to keep the planters as they were on the east side of Kirkgate.
2. **20.29%** of business owners wanted to move the planters and have the east side of Kirkgate double yellow lined. The effect of double yellow lines would be that no parking would be allowed except blue badge parking and this would be enforceable, loading and unloading is allowed, waiting is not allowed.
3. **73.91%** of business owners wanted to remove the planters and reinstate parking.

Following the overwhelming response from our business community, we want to be clear that we **DO NOT** support the new double yellow lines that were partly installed recently and completed once the planters were removed on Sunday – all without prior and proper consultation.

We also kindly ask Otley Town Council and Leeds City Council that when making decisions that directly impact upon people's livelihoods in the future, fair and transparent consultation is undertaken. Above all, act with compassion and respect for the local people that make our town such a special place to live, work and visit.

Directors
Otle Business Improvement District