

Discussing merits of proposed changes

- 1 (3.19) Look at the three pictures. What changes can you see between the 'now' picture and the two options? Which do you prefer? Then read and listen to the dialogue. What benefits and drawbacks of the proposed changes to the town centre do they mention?



- Eric** What do you think of the changes they're proposing to make in the town centre?
- Kerry** I quite like the plans for the pedestrianized area. But I don't like the idea of the new multi-storey car park. And they'll have to knock down all those lovely old buildings to make room for it.
- Eric** True. But they're in very poor condition, practically falling down. The whole area is very run down.
- Kerry** There must be something else they could do, though. Renovating the buildings would seem like the best option to me. And anyway,

why are they building a car park when they should be encouraging people to use public transport, or cycle, or walk? To my mind, building a car park is a step backwards.

Eric I don't know. It's impossible to find a parking space now. The new car park'll attract people into the town, and that'll be good for the shops and cafés.

Kerry That's not how I see it at all. If the town centre becomes even more congested, everyone will avoid it like the plague. Shops and cafés will be worse off, not better off.

Eric I think it'll make things easier for people, especially elderly people. My gran'll love it – she'll be able to park in the multi-storey and walk straight into the new shopping mall. She won't have to carry all her shopping home on the bus.

Kerry That's a fair point.

- 2 Complete these expressions from the dialogue.

- 1 (That) would seem like the best _____ to me.
- 2 To my _____, building a car park ...
- 3 I don't _____.
- 4 That's not how I _____ it at all.
- 5 That's a fair _____.

- 3 (3.20) Listen to the continuation of the dialogue. What further benefits and drawbacks do they mention?

- 4 Put the expressions from exercise 2 in the correct group (A–C).

A Giving opinions

one advantage of ... is (that) ...
one drawback of ... is (that) ...
Personally, I think that ...

B Disagreeing

I don't accept that.
I disagree with the view that ...

C Conceding a point

True.
Yes, I suppose you're right.
Yes, I hadn't thought of that.

- 5 Work in pairs. Each choose one plan from exercise 1 and think about its merits. Consider the questions below and make notes. Your answers to exercise 4 will help.

- 1 Which would be better for (a) young people (b) families (c) elderly people?
- 2 Which is visually more attractive?

- 6 Discuss the plans with your partner using your notes from exercise 5. Think about the drawbacks of your partner's plan. Give your opinion and react to your partner's points using expressions and phrases from exercises 2 and 4.

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