

Sheerness Parking Review Update

A total of 59 questionnaires were hand delivered to residents of Delamark Road and Royal Road in Sheerness. Only 8 responses were received, giving a response rate of less than 14%.

All of the 8 responses were in support of the introduction of a Residents' Parking Scheme for the Delamark Road and Royal Road areas, but there were some concerns raised by the manager of The Mount Home in Delamark Road.

The Mount is a small voluntary home caring for 11 people with learning difficulties. There are 9 care staff providing 24 hour care, and 4 of these staff use their cars to travel to and from work. Although the home has spent £6,000 to install off street parking at the rear of the property, inconsiderate parking has resulted in this area being unusable, and as such staff must park in Delamark Road.

The manager of the home has stated that the current charge of £40 for permits in other areas of Swale is unaffordable for staff, and restricted finances make it difficult for the home to subsidise these costs. There is also the issue of the maximum number of allowed permits per property to consider, currently 2 in other Residents' Parking Schemes in the Borough.

The comments received from this consultation feedback can be found in the table on Page 2 and 3.

There is concern that the low feedback obtained is insufficient to represent the views of the majority of residents in the area, and for this reason it is recommended that a Residents' Parking Scheme is not implemented in this area.

However, it is felt that plans to change the existing car park at the rear of Delamark Road into a long stay Pay & Display car park should be progressed, to allow shoppers and town centre workers to park in this car park rather than parking in nearby roads such as Delamark Road and Royal Road. As with other long stay car parks, residents would be entitled to purchase permits for overnight and weekend parking in this car park should they wish to do so.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report and recommend that:-

- a Residents' Parking Scheme is not implemented in this area
- the existing car park at the rear of Delamark Road should be made into a long stay pay and display car park.

| Resident | Comments | Response |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 1 | <p>My only concern is that if the parking bays stay free for anyone to use for up to 2 hours it will not actually solve the parking problem here in Delamark Road. I am unsure why this type of parking scheme needs to take place as well as charging £40 for resident parking as well. Especially when there will be a pay and display car park behind Delamark Road for shoppers etc. Why can't Delamark Road just be used for Delamark residents only? Think £40 charge is disgusting.</p> | <p>The reason for providing a period of 2 hours for parking by non permit holders in similar schemes in the Borough is to allow visitors and care nurses etc. to park in the road without purchasing a day permit. Although there would be a pay and display car park nearby, residents may deem it unfair that any visitors would have to pay.</p> <p>The £40 charge for permits would be in line with other schemes in the Borough.</p> |
| 2 | <p>It is vital some sort of scheme be introduced as local shop/office staff fill all the spaces in Delamark Road. Make car park as pay and display.</p> | <p>Noted, but introduction of any scheme would need good support from residents.</p> |
| 3 | <p>I have access to parking at the rear of my property (back of C C Club) but I am unable to use it due to other "non residents" leaving their cars overnight thus boxing me in. Also have had my car vandalised when I did park there.</p> | <p>Any Residents Parking Scheme would only operate during the day, currently Monday to Saturday, and therefore would not solve overnight parking problems.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Comments from The Mount Home – as discussed above</p> | <p>See previous page for discussions on issues raised.</p> |
| 5 | <p>No specific comments</p> | <p>-</p> |
| 6 | <p>With so many vans parking and people leaving their cars in the road while they go to work, when my granddaughter visits me often doing things for me as I am over 80 years old, she is scared that she will get a parking ticket which is bad. I being on Income Support I think I might have help free from the Council, but instead my granddaughter saves them money. So if you had daily permits I would gladly pay, so my granddaughter doesn't worry.</p> | <p>Daily permits are available in other Residents Parking Schemes in the Borough, although for frequent visits it may be cheaper to purchase an annual permit.</p> |

| Resident | Comments | Response |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 7 | <p>We really need Residents Parking in Delamark Road to stop people parking here to avoid paying while they work in the High Street, visit the beach, Leisure Centres and pubs. The Delamark Road car park is very often full with customers to the Ivy Leaf Pub, and I often have to walk home at night because I can't park there.</p> <p>Before you think about making Delamark Road car park a pay and display, will you consider the effect this will have on the amount of traffic up and down Delamark Road.</p> <p>From being a cul-de-sac, we have 10 extra houses, and the deliveries to shops in High Street including 2 bakers (really large lorries) and 2 public houses. They all have to come and go as there is no other exit.</p> | <p>We would need a good positive response rate from residents to introduce a Residents Parking Scheme.</p> <p>If a Residents Parking Scheme was introduced in the Delamark Road area, the existing on-street parking layout would be investigated with a view to improving access.</p> |
| 8 | <p>I am severely disabled, and although I was told by Swale Borough Council to have a notice made and put in front of my house I am unable to park if I go out. Today I went to Tesco at 7am but when I returned just after 8am I was unable to park – one of the residents had to help me home. This area is badly overcrowded – 2 public houses, flats, Healthy Living Centre, Swimming Pool.</p> | <p>Although the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme may improve some of the parking problems experienced in the area, it will not guarantee a parking space in the vicinity of a property. Also, as stated above, the scheme would only run during the daytime, Monday to Saturday, and problems outside of these times would still be experienced.</p> |