

Annexe E
Resident Generated Letter

Parking Permits.....The Truth!

Dear Neighbours,

Having gained an insight from one of the Valenciennes residents, I called the council to confirm how parking permits work. I thought I would share it with you as I found it quite staggering!

1. Parking permits do not guarantee you a space outside your front door or anywhere in the road for that matter! We would be issued with an "SB" permit, which appears to be the same as most roads who have adopted this scheme and who will in the future, this side of the A2! The council have confirmed that anyone with permits from the following 14 roads could still park here!

Addington Road
Albany Road
Anslem Close
Belmont Road
Burley Road
Connaught Road
Epps Road
London Road (numbers 1-21 and 16-54)
Park Road (rest of it down to the town)
Rock Road
Ufton Lane
Unity Street
Valenciennes Road
William Street

2. For clarity, you can buy one permit for two vehicles, but can only use this permit in one vehicle at a time. In short, you need to buy permits for each vehicle in your household if they are parked in Park Road at the same time. Cost being £45 per permit.
3. For your friends, family and any workmen exceeding the maximum stay – you will need to buy visitors books which are £11 per book and contain 10 one off daily permits. You can only buy a maximum of two books per month. This proved problematic for friends in Valenciennes and Burley who had building work done.

To Summarise,

On hearing this, I just cannot see the positives of this scheme other than revenue generation for the council and job creation for parking wardens. I fear once it is here, we won't be able to change our minds.

Please carefully reconsider your vote. Apparently we can still log / change our views up until 10th February 2020 and the difference is only two votes now!

E mail engineers@swale.gov.uk OR

Post: Engineering & Technical Services Team, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East St, ME10 3HT

Comments received following residents' letter

Email/Letter No.	Comments
1	<p>I understand that that consideration is currently being given to the imposition of new double yellow lines from the top of Ufton Lane to Homewood Avenue and for parking permits along Park Road from Valenciennes Road to the top.</p> <p>I am a resident in Lyndhurst Grove, around the corner from these proposals, and I am very concerned about the impact this will have on parking in the Lyndhurst Grove cul-de-sac. At present the parking situation in the Grove is acceptable, although at school start and close times it is difficult for this short period of time. However, with the imposition of these new restrictions in the neighbouring roads I am very concerned about the detrimental impacts these would have on parking in the Grove. I am fortunate to have a driveway but have found that sometimes this is blocked and I am concerned that this will happen more frequently. I would therefore like my objections to these proposals to be noted.</p>
2	<p>I would like to make an objection to the proposal for extending double yellow lines in Ufton Lane and installing parking permits.</p> <p>I am objecting to this purely on the grounds of insufficient parking availability and already high traffic impact on the area.</p> <p>The area is already a dangerous spot with the amount of traffic and irresponsible drivers, especially those who drop off children at The Oak but especially Minterne School.</p> <p>I witness cars being parked wherever possible and stopped traffic on my road (Bradley Drive) every day. At times I find it difficult to park my own car on my own driveway.</p> <p>I have already made complaints about this to Swale Council before, which was not taken seriously and rudely dismissed.</p> <p>I have also made complaints to Minterne School as to why the school cannot offer a part time drop off / collection point within the school grounds, something Swale Council also has rejected.</p> <p>To make another area a no parking zone shows the inept lack of wisdom emanating from Swale Council. You will deliberately push more traffic into Bradley Drive making it unbearable. Gore Court Road has no yellow lines but anyone with any common sense already knows that cars being parked here also cause mayhem. We already have to put up with this every time an event is held on the Appleyards grounds, such as football at weekends and summer events.</p> <p>Over the years nothing has been done to accommodate the vehicles dropping children off at schools. With so many schools in the one area this already shows a lack of wisdom when planning. Long term something needs to be done, and a drop off zone seems the only viable solution, considering Swale Council has no school buses or Park and Ride schemes.</p> <p>I recommend you get off your bums within the council office and actually come and monitor the area for one week at both morning drop off and afternoon collection. See what we have to put up with before you start to make ill-conceived plans that will bear nothing but bad fruit for all.</p>
3	<p>I have just been made aware that there is a discussion regarding whether there will be an extension to the Park Road Parking Scheme.</p> <p>I would not be happy about this at all as I am at this moment taking driving lessons, an extra £45 per year would really put me in financial hardship on top of all the other expenses a new driver encounters.</p>

	<p>On top of this I also cannot see this helping the situation as there are usually parking spaces during the day, from 5pm onwards is when the problem starts and that would not be helped by the scheme.</p>
4	<p>I find this proposal regarding the alterations to install permit bays & yellow lines in Park Rd & Ufton Lane unwise. I live in Lyndhurst Grove where parking is & will be unrestricted but is already congested. I'm concerned that implementing these restrictions will only cause the parking issues that may exist to migrate to other unrestricted area. I no longer drive but when visitor arrive they always struggle to park & during school drop off time the Grove becomes quite dangerous without additional pressures on the area.</p> <p>With the above in mind I ask that you register my objection against this proposal.</p>
5	<p>I am writing to voice my concern and opposition to the above noted scheme.</p> <p>We live at Bradley Drive and currently we already have a high volume of traffic both driving past our house and also at school opening and closing time parking on the road. The road is already heavily congested, and the muted parking scheme will only have an adverse effect during peak times.</p> <p>I would therefore like to strongly oppose this new scheme as I feel it will actually make the road more dangerous for road users and school children during peak times. If anything we could do with yellow lines down Bradley Drive.</p>
6	<p>I live at Park road. I unfortunately was on holiday when asked to register my thoughts on this matter and missed the deadline.</p> <p>I now understand I can still have my say. I am against the proposed scheme and wish this to be noted.</p>
7	<p>I do NOT want permit parking brought in for Park road, considering all the facts I.e you will be able to park here after 4pm until 10am the next day without a permit, 14 other streets with the same SB permit would be able to park here, just because you would have to pay for a parking permit does NOT guarantee a parking place, it would NOT be any better than it is now. Also please consider residents on very restricted budgets, some people have to rely on their vehicle for several reasons I.e work, on a low wage people would not be able to afford the cost of a permit, if they had to pay for one or more then they would have to make sacrifices elsewhere I.e food, household bills etc.</p>
8	<p>Please except this as a vote to put forward parking permits for the top of Park Rd as the parking is getting very bad at the present -ie Commercial vans -cars that are parked for past 4 months and not moved (now has flat tyres and live bottom end of road) commuters who park and then go on train -people who work in town park all day to save paying parking fees. It really needs to be a 24hr 7 day permit</p>
9	<p>I am sending this email to Oppose this parking scheme for what I think is the 6th time. I remember one of the council saying that this scheme would not solve the problem but just move it on. From people I know who live at the bottom end of Park Road they would not recommend it. I feel this is not looking at the problem and sorting it out, but just making bigger ones for us at the top end of the road.</p>
10	<p>Please would you reconsider the parking permits for park road.</p> <p>This is going to cause hardship and issues for people who have two or more cars in their households. The parking issues will not be resolved due to this scheme and it will just be a money making venture for the council.</p>

	I say no to this scheme
11	<p>Please please please do not put parking bays at the top of Park Roadfor the third time you have tried to do this!</p> <p>What is their benefit?</p> <p>There is no problem with Parking during the day so I have no idea as to why we would need them. The only time it is a chore to park is after working hours which is when ANYONE, including those that DO NOT have a permit, can park. Where is the logic in this.</p> <p>You take a look at all the free, unused spaces where to parking bays currently existing in Park Road and you wonder what we need these for? Surely you want to attract people into Sittingbourne???? It's a dying town and yet because of the bay restrictions at the bottom and the increased parking costs, why would anyone want to come into Sittingbourne to work or shop or pay????</p> <p>NO NO NO NO NO, need for parking bays, all they seem to be used for a revenue for the council! When they first came into force were they not £30 a year??? And now how much are they? And what about visitors? As a resident we have no control over the increased yearly costs. It's an absolute joke and it doesn't even guarantee a place to park. And with escalating house costs there can often be young adults living at home who are car owners. Why should we be penalised just because of where we live.</p> <p>For over 14 years since living here we have never has an issue with parking from 8am until 6pm. As I said before, it is only a chore AFTER 6pm when anyone can park in them!</p> <p>AND, if there was ever a reason why there is less parking at the top of Park Road ...is because the implementation of Parking bays at the bottom!</p> <p>ALL you are doing is pushing the problem further into Sittingbourne, where will you finish putting bays in as the problem growsPark Avenue? Bradley Drive?</p> <p>STOP creating a problem that isn't there and penalising residents. Every spare bit of money we have is very much needed to pay for both my children to play the cricket and hockey at local clubs that they so very much love, that they no longer seem to cater for in secondary schools! Do not take this away from them.</p>
12	<p>I wish to log my disagreement with having parking permits on my road.</p> <p>My vote is against</p>
13	<p>We live at Park Road and we have been asked to vote if we wish for parking permits to come in for our road.</p> <p>My household (2 adults) vote TO NOT HAVE PERMITS.</p>

14

GOOD MORNING.

AS YOU CAN SEE BY MY ADDRESS ABOVE I LIVE VERY CLOSE TO 3 SCHOOLS AND THE PLAYING FIELD.

PARKING IS ALREADY A CONCERN AS OFTEN I RETURN TO MY VEHICLE AND AM UNABLE TO PARK AS SPACES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY PEOPLE ATTENDING VENUES AT SCHOOLS, CLUB.

I THEREFORE OPPOSE THE PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF CONTINUOUS YELLOW LINES IN UFTON LANE AS THIS, I FEEL UNDOUBTEDLY, WILL HAVE A MORE OF A PROFOUND IMPACT OF PROPERTY OWNERS IN NEIGHBOURING ROADS.

15

As a resident of Lyndhurst Grove, I wish to object to the proposed new parking schemes in Park Road and Ufton Lane.

I share concerns raised in the report to the Swale Joint Transportation Board with regards to the detrimental effect it will have on the local environment. These parking schemes do not reduce traffic; they simply move it to neighbouring roads, leading to more congestion and increasing the risk to children attending the three neighbouring schools, (as raised frequently in the petition). This vehicle displacement has happened repeatedly throughout Swale and is acknowledged by Cllr as his scheme includes a proposal to protect Ufton Lane. This "not in our back yard" approach just leads to other residents requesting similar parking schemes.

Lyndhurst Grove has very limited parking for residents and their visitors. We also have the schools traffic, Gore Court pub patrons and the overspill from Ufton Lane and Park Road residents. It cannot withstand the increased traffic from the removal of spaces in Ufton Lane and the Park Road residents who could refuse to purchase parking permits and subsequently the visitors passes and the numerous households stated in the petition who exceed the amount of permits they are able to purchase. (As already occurs with the Valenciennes residents currently parking in Park Road).

Consideration must be given to the extensive area that this scheme covers and the fact they are two of the closest roads to three schools that have no available onsite parking. The catchment area of these schools is expanding to incorporate the new housing estates on the outskirts of town and given the young age of these children, car usage is increasing and the available parking is decreasing. The Head Teacher of The Oaks has implemented a staggered start and collection to help alleviate congestion, but these schemes will counter it's effectiveness, as parents will need to arrive earlier to obtain a space. The Oaks Infant School alone has approximately 320 children and I don't believe that any of these schools have been consulted. I cannot imagine the chaos that will ensue with parents trying to find spaces and the abandoned vehicles.

It is astonishing that this scheme has been presented to the JTB given 76% of residents did not respond to the Engineer's request for feedback. The JTB has voted on the basis of the will of just 18% of residents. The low response would indicate that this is not a major issue for the majority of the residents, who have probably taken into account that they have chosen to live in a road that has only one parking space outside their home. Most of the comments on the petition state that all the parking issues are caused by the residents themselves having too many vehicles. It is clear from the petition that some of those in support have completely misunderstood how parking permits operate with comments such as "if it guarantees a space and our cars are safe". Clearly neither can be guaranteed and the JTB would be negligent to act upon this misunderstanding. In fact from speaking to many residents, most people are clueless about how parking permits work within Swale.

Those supporting the proposal are claiming that they are suffering from town and commuter parking. However, I have sent the Engineers footage that disproves these claims as there are vast amounts of spaces and in particular in front of the vet practice and other residents in their petition have also discounted these claims. Even if people were using these spaces, there is still plenty of room, therefore any scheme implemented Monday – Friday is not required. I don't discount there are issues in the evenings and weekends, but I don't think they differ to most other roads in Sittingbourne, because vehicle ownership is increasing everywhere in the country.

Only 10 people responded to the petition in Ufton Lane, showing 73% are unconcerned, which means this is also not a major concern. Most residents in Ufton Lane have driveways; therefore will not suffer the detrimental effects of the schemes, but just want to restrict the traffic in their road in a "not in our back yard" attitude. Therefore rather than look at the majority vote, the JTB needs to consider the consequences for those who have been out voted or not been offered a vote. It is simply absurd that to satisfy 18% of people, the council are even considering implementing such changes in another road altogether!

There are other suggestions, which could be explored:

- Residents simply parking better. Often there are significant gaps between the cars. Tighter parking would enable more vehicles to be park.
- Full use of the waste ground alongside the pet shop. There are currently council signs forbidding parking. Seeking agreement with whoever owns the rest of the wasteland as it currently looks a mess and could be used for parking.
- Similarly with the Gore Court Pub car park, which is underused – residents could rent spaces, (works in other towns).
- With regards to other roads who genuinely do suffer from commuter and town parking, it is clear that the cost of parking in town and around the station needs to be addressed to resolve both issues.
- Asking the coach firms to tender for a commuter shuttle service from the new estates to the station – which would reduce the number of vehicles in the town centre, improving air quality.
- The "click" service was a great idea – but was not well advertised.

To summarise, any perceived benefit to the 18% is far outweighed by the chaos it would cause by creating problems within the local community and making our roads dangerous, particularly around schools. The JTB's decision should not be simply made on a perceived 2% majority.

16	<p data-bbox="304 197 740 230">Thank you for getting back to me</p> <p data-bbox="304 271 1441 344">I raised the concern of the parking impact I am sure would happen if restricted parking scheme proposed</p> <p data-bbox="304 385 1469 499">I live in Roonagh Court and already have a problem parking outside of my property when parents are dropping and picking children up from school. If there is a function at either of the schools and playing field parking becomes even more impossible.</p> <p data-bbox="304 539 1437 611">I feel that adding restricted parking to Ufton lane would impact on the residents in the immediate vicinity and would therefore strongly oppose this scheme</p>
----	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------