

Committee: Planning, Highways and Transport

Date: 7th December 2021

Title: West Street Parking Restrictions

Purpose of Report

Members to consider removing parking restrictions for 12 bays on West Street.

Recommendation:

Members to resolve to apply to Highways to remove parking restrictions for 12 bays along West Street.

Report:

1. An email has been received from a member of the public living on West Street. **(Appendix 6a)**. The resident would like the Town Council to request the lifting of parking restrictions in the identified area of West Street.
2. It was resolved at the Open Spaces meeting held on 13th August 2013 Minute item number 43 'that the Town Council supports the lifting of the parking restriction from the 6 bays in West Street. Town Council resolved to support the recommendation on 10th September 2013. **(Appendix 6b)**
3. There is no evidence of any contact with Traffic Management to implement the above recommendation.
4. The parking sign was removed from West Street around that time but there is no evidence to confirm who removed the sign.
5. The parking restrictions sign reappeared in May 2021.
6. During the PHT meeting on the 6th July 2021 members discussed the issues relating to parking on West Street. The minutes from this item are in **APPENDIX 6c**. Officers have not been informed of any definitive opinion from the Council's representative to the Chamber of Commerce.
7. Officers have contacted Traffic Management who have advised that they have no record of the above changes being proposed.
8. Officers to start the process again to request the parking restrictions on West Street are removed to help the businesses at that end of the town.

Vicky Freeman
Administration Officer
29th November 2021

Sent: 17 November 2021 19:46

To: Town Council <town.council@ilminster.gov.uk>

Subject: New parking restrictions

Dear Sir/ Madam

I have lived in Ilminster for more than five years and in that time there have been no parking restrictions on West Street, outside No's 5, 7, 11 & 27 and further, from the junction with the car park to the junction with Brewery Lane.

The new parking restrictions are 1 hour with no return with in 2 hours. Somerset County Council inform me that parking restrictions have always existed in this area and all that had been done is to reinstate the sign!

There is precious little parking for residents in this area and there is definitely no need for what SCC designate additional "town centre parking".

Since this is going to cause residents considerable difficulty I should be grateful if this matter could be discussed at the planning meeting on December 7 with a view to changing the current situation.

Yours sincerely

Minutes Extract from Open Spaces Meeting 13 August 2013

43. Parking Restrictions in West Street

The Committee was asked by Somerset County Council to comment on lifting the parking restrictions of 6 bays in West Street

Issues discussed included the following:

- The parking restriction has become a problem for residents, now that the restriction is being enforced.
- East Street parking restrictions were changed as there was only one retail premises on that part of the road
- There is a public car park next to road where the parking restriction is.
- People using the shops here would generally have to park for longer than an hour and therefore would use the car park.
- Somerset County Council needs to consult with the retail traders at this location to find out their views

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Town Council supports the lifting of the parking restriction from the 6 bays in West Street

Minutes Extract from Planning, Highways & Transport Meeting 6 July 2021

P442.WG Parking restriction on West Street

Members discussed a few issues that were being raised with them in respect of West Street. These included:

TRO's being notoriously difficult to reverse

Could not Ashcombe Court be included?

Could the parking not be increased to two hours waiting?

A difficult balance between shoppers, residents and retailers.

Members felt they needed more time to obtain information and for the Chamber of Commerce to be consulted for their opinion.