

Committee: Planning, Highways and Transport

Date: 1 August 2023

Title: New Road Parking

Purpose of Report

For Members to consider a resident's request for parking restrictions on New Road.

Recommendation:

Members to note the report.

Report:

1. Officers received a request from a resident on New Road to consider supporting a request for the parking regulations to be amended on New Road.
2. The reasons for the request are detailed below:

'My concern is the unrestricted parking, on both sides of the road, on the bend at the bottom of New Road, just above the junction with the B3168.

The problem happens to be directly outside my home although I would like to emphasise that my concern is in no way related to my property, nor is my concern a function of a neighbour dispute or similar. At the lower end of New Road there is unrestricted parking on the right hand side (as you come down the hill) for 5 or 6 cars. This parking is partly on a bend but, in isolation, is not the issue. The problem is that there is also unrestricted parking for two cars, immediately opposite, on the left hand side - effectively restricting the width of the road to a single carriageway.

I have lived at X New Road for just seven months and I am away regularly for work. But, in that time, I have personally witnessed four accidents, the most dramatic of which could easily have resulted in serious injury, or worse, to pedestrians, as one of the vehicles involved mounted the pavement to avoid a head-on collision.

So, in summary, this is a busy road, where unrestricted parking on both sides of the road, on a steep downward slope, on a bend, is causing a significant road safety issue.

In my view, the problem is easily resolved, by removing the two unrestricted parking spaces on the left hand side of the road (as you come down the hill). But, I have learned through my initial contact with the Highways authorities that there is no such thing as an easy solution to these matters, even though pedestrian safety is at risk.'

3. In response to this, an email was sent outlining the various factors that Highways have reported to officers in the past year that might be pertinent to the request. The main aspect that will require addressing is the need to carry out a survey of all the residents who might be affected in the location of any changes. This is something that the Town Council has neither the resources or the funding to do in this years budget.

'It is worth being aware that we get regular requests such as the one you are making, and we consult with Highways on a regular basis. Their default position always seems to be these days to fire it back to the Town Council and for us to then have to inform residents, that in order for these requests to be progressed all the residents in the area will need to agree to it. This is something that you will be asked to do. They will also require data that shows over time that there is a history of accidents logged for the specific location.

They will then point out that if any of the residents are anti the idea it is very unlikely to get the go ahead from highways, however much the town council supports the idea. They often decline schemes such as these on the grounds that all the introduction of parking restrictions will do is move the problem further along the road. Part of their argument will also be that as parked cars create a natural traffic calming situation and with the various H Bars that are in place, double yellow lines may only serve to allow vehicles to travel faster as they turn onto the B3168.

I am sorry if this all sounds negative but it is important for you to realise that Highways often do not make it easy at any stage of the journey.'

4. Members to consider whether they wish to support the idea of changing the parking restrictions on New Road.

Mark Tredwin
Town Clerk
July 2023