

**PARKING PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT: DISCUSSION FORUM**  
**TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2015**  
**AT 8.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,**  
**THE CIVIC CENTRE, 161 HIGH STREET, BERKHAMSTED**

**Attendees**

Cllr Ian Reay, Chair  
Deidre Allen, for Jerry Wright, Business representative  
Clive Birch, Resident representative  
David Carter, Resident representative  
Cllr Tom Ritchie  
Cllr Garrick Stevens

Stephen Cloughton, Bridgewater Road resident  
David Sayers, Bridgewater Road resident  
John Flynn, Bridgewater Road resident

Gary Cox, Town Clerk

**Welcome**

1. Councillor Reay welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Stephen Cloughton, David Sayers and John Flynn who wanted to raise concerns regarding parking on Bridgewater Road.

**Apologies**

2. Apologies had been received from Jerry Wright, Danny Bonnett and Ian Stephenson. Ivor Eisenstadt had stepped down as a member of the Group as his company had relocated from Berkhamsted to Chesham and he could no longer represent Berkhamsted businesses or the Chamber of Commerce.

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

3. The minutes of the last meeting held on 6 May 2014 were agreed.
4. Actions from that meeting had been cleared:
5. A review of line markings for the Charles Street and surrounding area and including Bridgewater Road had been completed and was an item for this meeting (Para 11)
6. Those Charles Street and the Manor Street and surrounding area line marking proposals had been sent to the Borough and County Council for consideration. As yet no response had been received. (Para 12)
7. Berkhamsted School had declined to insist that pupils using cars for their school journey park at Kitcheners Field (Para 16).

**Road lining proposals**

8. Clive Birch provided a summary of a review of line marking opportunities for Charles Street and surrounding areas and Bridgewater Road. The review sought to identify where additional kerbside parking spaces can be provided without significant detriment to traffic flow and where kerbside parking is causing obstructions to driveways or to sightlines at junctions, thereby compromising road and pedestrian safety.
9. In summary, a total of 44 additional spaces had been identified as follows.

Kitsbury Road/Charles Street	12
Boxwell Road	0
North Road	0
Park View Road	11
Montague Road	0
Cowper Road	13
Torrington Road	0
Doctors Commons Road	0
Kings Road	0
Clarence Road	8
	<b><u>44</u></b>

10. These spaces would be achieved by the removal of single yellow lines, including some at corners and junctions where the yellow lining is inconsistent and unnecessarily long. Some existing lines had faded and needed repainting.
  11. A small number of spaces will be lost to address dangerous parking at junctions at:
    - Charles Street/Boxwell Road (east side)
    - North Road/Charles Street
    - Park View Road/Charles Street
    - Montague Road/Charles Street
    - Charles Street opposite Cowper Road
    - Bridgewater Road at both junctions of South park Gardens
  12. An additional problem at Bridgewater Road is with kerbside parking overlapping with driveways so that residents are unable to access or exit their driveways. The proposal is to either white or yellow line across drives.
  13. Dave Carter summarised proposals for road lining in the Manor Street area, which had been presented to the May 2014 meeting. A further 120 day time parking spaces could be created of which 100 could also be night time spaces. The proposal includes an opportunity to demolish 9 garages off Holiday Street and replace them with a resident parking space which would accommodate 28 cars.
  14. The Group asked that the detailed reports be sent again to the Borough and County Council asking for their views and for a meeting to discuss the proposals and way forward. **Action: Town Clerk**
  15. The Group noted Borough Council proposals for a 15 minute waiting restriction outside shops on Charles Street and commented that there is scope to reduce the length of the existing no waiting Mon-Sat 8.30am-6.30pm parking restrictions as in the road ling proposals for Charles Street/Kitsbury Road.
- Resident concerns on parking on Bridgewater Road**
16. Stephen Cloughton, David Sayers and John Flynn raised problems with parking on Bridgewater Road, caused by a combination of rail commuters parking in the road and others using it as a “rat run”.
  17. Concerns are that commuters continue to park in the street with all the inconvenience that causes to local residents: gaining access to and from driveways; causing traffic flow problems by parking on both sides of the road; creating danger to pedestrians crossing the road and when alighting buses which have to stop in the middle of the road to avoid parked cars.

18. The residents asked why commuters were able to park free for free in the road to the detriment of residents and whether a residents parking scheme could be introduced for Bridgewater Road?
19. Councillor Reay summarised previous attempts to introduce a 2 hour commuter parking restriction in Bridgewater Road and surrounding roads. Around 80% of residents who responded from within the affected zones were in favour, but a similar proportion of respondents from neighbouring streets were against proposals. Most, but not all, objections were on grounds of the impact of displaced cars on neighbouring streets.
20. As a result the Town Council reconsidered the extent of the commuter ban proposals, but concerns that parking would be displaced to other streets and parts of the town which were already suffering from parking problems at least equal to those in the Bridgewater Road, meant those revised proposals were not taken forward.
21. Bridgewater Road residents asked why South Park Gardens and Castle Hill have parking restrictions applied when none are applied further up Bridgewater Road? The policy on parking restrictions does not seem doesn't seem very coherent or consistent.
22. As well as asking for either white or yellow line across drives, the Forum agreed to contact the County Council to explore the possibility for a marked bus stop being introduced that prevented car parking in that zone; and to consider if parking restrictions on South Park Gardens and Castle Hill might be removed to share the commuter parking pressure more evenly across the area. **Action: Town Clerk**
23. The Residents expressed a preference to revisit the possibility of a residents parking scheme and/or commuter ban for Bridgewater Road.

#### **Parking on Gossoms Ryde**

24. The Forum considered concerns raised by residents regarding parking problems on Gossoms Ryde.
25. Residents have to compete for parking spaces with staff and patients at the three busy NHC clinics in the road. The NHS parking is unmanaged which together with parking for staff at a pre-school club in the cul-de-sac, there are few available parking spaces for residents.
26. The road is continually log-jammed with parked cars, making it difficult for delivery lorries and other vehicles to navigate the road safely and there is not room for vehicles to turn. Thus makes the area unsafe for pedestrians and residents.
27. A further problem is for vehicles turning from Gossoms Ryde onto the Busy Gossoms End (High Street). Cars parked at the parade of shops opposite on Gossoms End and the regular bus stop opposite the junction, means that Gossoms End only has room for one car at a time. Busy traffic, cars parked opposite and buses at the bus stop mean no room for cars to turn onto Gossoms End. This, together with very limited sightlines makes it a dangerous turning.
28. The Forum agreed the problems with parking and traffic at Gossoms Ryde turning onto Gossoms End should be raised with the Country Council, who should be asked to consider moving the bus stop away from the junction. **Action: Town Clerk**
29. The Forum also asked that the NHS Clinics be reminded that they have access to parking spaces at Lagley Meadow, funded by the Herts NHS. **Action: Town Clerk**

### **Berkhamsted School Coach Parking**

30. The Group noted that the County Council is consulting on possible coach bay parking on Castle Street for Berkhamsted School coaches. Latest proposals are for two coach bays operating at 8.30am and 4.00pm and an increase in car parking spaces on the Street by 1 space during the day and 3 at night.

### **Multi-Storey Car Park Proposals**

31. The Group noted that the Borough Council was continuing to develop proposals for a multi-story car park at Lower Kings Road. Following discussions with John Lewis it has been decided not to extend the multi-storey car park into Waitrose.
32. The overall budget for the project had been reduced and the Consultants, Whyte, Young Green are currently meeting with the Borough's planning officers to determine a design that meets planning policies. A planning application is expected shortly.
33. The Group was disappointed that the Borough and Consultants had not engaged with the Forum as the design and plans were being developed. The Forum and consultants had a positive and constructive meeting at the early stage of work and had asked for that engagement to continue.
34. The Forum agreed that DBC and Consultants should be invited to discuss the latest proposals and timetable for the car park with the Forum to get local, early and constructive review and comments on plans. **Action: Town Clerk**
35. The Forum also agreed that the DBC meeting with the Forum should be a pre-cursor to the Borough having a wider consultation with the town on the plans, before they are submitted.

### **Any Other Business**

#### ***Taxi ranks***

36. The Forum noted the Borough Council was consulting on possible taxi ranks in the town centre. Possible sites were a 24 hour rank in Water Lane and an evening late night site at the High Street bus stop (outside Boots) after buses had stopped running for the day. The Group noted the advantage of taxi ranks would be to discourage car journeys into the town, particularly in the evenings.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

37. It was agreed that the next meeting would be with DBC and consultants on the multi-storey car park and would depend on DBC availability.