



LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

PUBLIC QUESTION 2 & RESPONSE

DATE: 9 December,2016

A question has been received from Mr David Howell:

The Farnham Society Planning Committee has been contacted by a Waverley Borough Council Tenant resident on behalf of themselves and some seven other Waverley tenants in College Gardens and Potters Gate. They contacted us seeking assistance in arranging for car parking in College Gardens to be retained as residents only use as happens in some other parts of the borough. We are requesting the reversal of the decision to enforce common Zone A parking

My question to the committee is this:

Can this committee discuss the matter now and outside the meeting as required and in doing so, follow common sense allocating the car parking spaces to be used by Waverley's elderly and infirm Tenants in College Gardens on a similar basis to their Waverley Ewart Trust neighbours?

College Gardens and Potters Gate are already within the Farnham Town Centre Controlled Parking Zone (Zone A) boundary, and residents will have been passing zone entry signs to get to either of these streets for as long as they've lived there. As you may be aware, College Gardens has never been properly signed as being part of Zone A, and to any member of the public the road will appear to be private, which is not the case.

As so much time has passed, rather than just installing Zone A parking signs in College Gardens, we decided it would be right to advertise these changes following local committee approval, which we did, as part of the 2015 Waverley Parking Review. In terms of the types of bays advertised/agreed for College Gardens, the only options were whether the bays would be permit holders only or have a free 2 hour period in addition. However, in either restriction, the bays would always be signed as Zone A, as per all of the other permit bays within Zone A, which means that any Zone A permit holder can park in College Gardens should they wish to do so.

It was decided that it would be fair to have College Gardens the same as all the other streets in Zone A, and the two key points regarding this are as follows: -

1.) College Gardens is not the only cul-de-sac in the existing Farnham Town Centre Zone A. Long Garden Walk West for example - which is a cul-de-sac that runs parallel with Castle Street - the residents of this road wanted parking bays to be marked out for permit holders only, to allow residents to park in this road for the first time. These bays are now installed, and being within Zone A, they are marked as Zone A bays, which the residents understood and accepted that this would mean that they are now part of the zone and therefore any permit holder can park in them. As another example, when the Zone A boundary was extended eastwards a few years ago, Wykeham Road and Sumner Road cul-de-sacs became part of Zone A, again, with exactly the same Zone A permit restrictions and criteria. Abbey Street is another cul-de-sac that has been in Zone A from the beginning. Therefore College Gardens is not the only residential cul-de-sac in Farnham town centre, and for the fairness of all streets within the zone, College Gardens should not be treated as a unique street and should not have its own unique permit arrangement.

2.) Controlled Parking Zones are designed to manage parking within a large area, incorporating multiple streets all operating under exactly the same permit criteria. Whilst the permits can be used in any street with permit holder parking bays installed, residents will naturally always want to park as close to their home as possible. Therefore by preference, we are sure that every street within the existing Zone A area would greatly prefer the permit bays in their street to be exclusively for the residents of the street that the bays are situated in, and this is understandable. However, one of the main reasons why Controlled Parking Zones work so well is that all of the available space within the zone is shared amongst all the residents, and that certain parts of the zone favour residents over shoppers and vice versa. This maximises all of the space within the town, which is very limited taking into account the number of residents and visitors that use this area. Having the bays in College Gardens exclusively for College Gardens and Potters Gate residents would be a first in Zone A, and we can say without any doubt that other streets within the zone would strongly question why this has been done here and not elsewhere. In this case, our answer cannot simply be that 'the residents wanted it', we have to take a view over the entire area and decide what is best and what is fair for that area as a whole.

In conclusion, we saw no reason why this parking scheme layout for College Gardens should not proceed as advertised. It was therefore agreed for installation on the ground and will follow the installation of the off street parking spaces within College Gardens, currently planned by Waverley Borough Council. However, as with any parking scheme, the restriction layout is never final, and can be reviewed as part of forthcoming Waverley Parking Reviews. Therefore if residents are unhappy about the way the restrictions are being used or unhappy with the layout of the restrictions, then all of this is open to review in the future.