

Open Forum

Mr Hope asked:

Do the committee agree that there may be valid circumstances where it could be appropriate to prioritise residents who are on the Area D waiting list for parking permits and that this need not be a burdensome scheme to administrate as the parking office have indicated that there are likely to be less than 25 cases to consider per year?

The Parking Manager, GBC responded:

Mr Hope's request to see such a change is already included within Annex 2 of the report. Therefore, should the Committee agree recommendation (ii)(c), then the Parking and Air Quality Working Group would have an opportunity to consider the matter further.

Mr Hope said that he would be happy if his suggestion was thoroughly considered.

Mrs Kate Dumbleton asked:

Merrow Residents Association (MRA) have regularly received questions from residents about parking on the Epsom Road verge fronting Boxgrove Gardens. I am aware that Parking Enforcement Officers can only issue a penalty charge notice where a vehicle is parked on a pavement or verge if there are formal parking restrictions applying to that part of the road.

However, cars and vans parking in front of Boxgrove Gardens have to cross the cycle lane and the pavement to park on the verge. Reversing out into the oncoming stream of traffic on the busy Epsom Road must be dangerous. Also, over time the kerb and pavement are being damaged and will need repairing eventually.

Merrow has suffered other parking problems recently. For many months, workers on Linden Homes' development of the former Redwood Care Home (now known as Wellington Grove) have been parking their vans and cars on the grassed area at the entrance to Levylsden because there has been insufficient room on site. Even though the grassed area is owned by SCC, we have been told there is nothing that can be done to stop that parking which is not only inconvenient to the residents of Levylsden but also a complete eyesore which has caused damage to the grass and the removal of a tree. Coincidentally, the developer in both cases is Linden Homes.

Q1 I would like to know the exact legal position as to why parking on these areas cannot be prevented so that I can inform residents, and why SCC is seemingly powerless to prevent parking on land it owns.

Q2 Installing posts which are used in other places would be a practical solution but is the Council taking the pragmatic view that preventing parking in some areas would only result in the problem moving elsewhere?

Q3 When developers make planning applications in future, can GBC please be diligent to ensure there is sufficient onsite parking at all times. MRA has learned from these experiences and will certainly be looking even more closely at the parking implications of future applications.

The Parking Manager GBC responded:

Parking legislation in relation to verges is interesting, in other areas they have introduced a blanket ban to prevent verge parking, this would have an impact in Surrey as it very prevalent. It isn't an offence to park on the verge/footpath in England.

Mrs Kate Dumbleton asked would it involve a traffic regulation?

The Area Highways Manager responded: if waiting restrictions are introduced then we can enforce those restrictions but where there aren't we can't. I will speak to the Transportation Team at SCC to see if we can encourage the developer to discourage people from parking on the footpaths.

Members stated that it has been identified that there is a problem at Boxgrove Gardens and they trying to do something about it.

Jan Messinger a parish cllr but asked in a private capacity:

How much have gypsy and traveller incursions cost the borough, County, Police?

County Cllr Matt Furniss responded: Around £70,000 direct costs last year and just over £40,000 this year, we are working on this County wide.

Jan Messinger asked: How has the borough saved money on this?

County Cllr Matt Furniss responded: better use of our resources and better working with the Police, more defences went in after last year.

Borough Cllr Paul Spooner responded: on Friday there is a stakeholder group looking at this and it's being taken very seriously.

The Chairman responded: we will find out the costs for the County and come back to you.