



**OFFICER RESPONSE TO PETITION
LOCAL COMMITTEE
(MOLE VALLEY)**

LINCOLN ROAD PARKING

PETITION

06 MARCH 2013

This petition of 71 signatures was submitted by Mr Nick O'Shea

We are residents or property owners in Lincoln Road, Dorking. Being close to Dorking stations and with several offices and businesses locally, many commuters and office workers regularly try to park in our street, with the result that local residents are frequently not able to park near their homes. There is no other parking available to us except the railway station car park where the commuters should be parking instead of parking in Lincoln Road. To try to address this problem, several day-time parking restrictions have been enforced over the years, but they are far from satisfactory and frequently result in residents receiving parking tickets. Also, many commuters and business workers understand how these restrictions work and deliberately time their parking to comply with them, which totally defeats the objective of ensuring that local residents have somewhere to park reasonably near to their homes.

We have been campaigning for a scheme to enable us to park in the street where we live. A succession of Highways Officers over many years have promised that a suitable scheme is only months away. Several times we were asked to demonstrate local support and have been able to show that there is overwhelming support for a scheme among residents. On a number of occasions, we have also shown that without parking by commuters and from business which are not located in the street, there is adequate parking for all residents and for businesses which are located in the street. However, no scheme has ever actually been implemented.

This is to ask that your committee undertakes to trial a scheme during the coming 2013/14 financial year restricting parking in the street to residents and bone fide business with premises on Lincoln Road, with a view to making it permanent within 12 months.

Response from SCC Highways:

Background

Residents parking schemes are often introduced to make it easier for residents to park near their homes and to improve access for visitors. Lincoln Road is very close to Dorking station and used by commuters to avoid parking charges in the station car park, (which is often under utilised).

Lincoln Road may well be suitable for a residents parking scheme however a consultation would be needed with residents and business to determine whether their needs can be accommodated. It is proposed to include this location in the 2013 parking review (due at the Local Committee in June) and subject to funding and committee agreement, consult with residents about the available options in this road. An FAQ about residents parking is attached.

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

How does a Resident permit parking zone work?

Permit parking is intended to help residents and their guests find somewhere to park during the days and times that the scheme is in operation. It is important to mention that a permit does not guarantee a space and there is a cost for each permit requested (see below for charges). However, by limiting the parking by non residents, it follows that there should be more space available for residents to use than there is at the moment.

During the controlled times only vehicles displaying a valid Resident Parking Permit or a valid Visitor Permit would be allowed to park in the zone.

The zone would be indicated by entry/exit signs and would not require parking bays to be marked on the road, thereby maximising the space available.

When do restrictions apply?

If a scheme were to be introduced in this area, the operational hours would be decided based on the feedback received to this consultation.

What about blue badge holders?

Blue badge holders could park in the zone for as long as they need provided their blue badge is displayed. However, it may not be possible to mark specific parking bays within a zone of this type.

Who would be eligible for a resident permit?

Residents who live on a road within the permit zone would be eligible to apply for a resident permit. Residents from nearby roads may also be eligible, depending on the nature of the roads in question and the relative parking capacity and requirements of these roads. This would be decided based on the outcome of this consultation and would be fully defined in any formal proposals.

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How much do permits cost?

Resident permits are valid for a year at a cost of £50 for the first permit issued to a household and £75 for each subsequent permit. This cost is to cover the administration and enforcement of the scheme.

How many permits can I have?

The maximum number of resident permits that can be issued to a household is usually calculated by the number of vehicles registered to the household minus the number of off street parking spaces for that property. For example, 3 registered vehicles and 1 off street parking space would mean the members of the household could apply for up to 2 resident permits. In some cases where road space is very limited, a lower allocation of permits may be agreed to improve the availability of parking space.

Those residents who have adequate off street parking do not need to purchase any residents permits, but may find that they would need to purchase visitors permits. These are available to all households in the zone up to a maximum limit of 120 per household per year.

There may be additional limitations on the number of permits allowed if demand exceeds on-street capacity.

Can any type of vehicle have a permit?

Only vehicles of a type and class detailed in the parking orders are eligible. Generally these are cars and small vans.

What do I do about visitors, workmen and deliveries?

Each household is entitled to a maximum of 120 visitors' permits per annum. They cost £2 per permit and can be bought in batches of up to 20 at one time. Each permit entitles one vehicle to park in the zone, and lasts for the whole day. They can only be used once and must be displayed on the visitor's vehicle. Any vehicle can park in the zone to make deliveries, and wait for up to 20 minutes to load and unload and does not require a permit to do this.

What do I do about medical needs / carers?

There are two different types of permits which can be issued. An operational permit allows medical professionals (such as qualified doctors and nurses) to park within the zone, and is issued free of charge to the medical professional. Alternatively a carer's permit can be issued to the resident, which is for carers, or individuals acting in the capacity of a carer, and allows them to park within the zone to carry out their duties. This permit costs £10 and lasts up to one year.

How much does a replacement permit cost?

If you lose your existing permit or change your vehicle you will need to pay an administration fee of £15 to replace your permit.

What if I can't find a parking space?

We think that there will be enough spaces for residents and visitors through the course of the day, however, if you can't find a space you will need to find an alternative legal parking space elsewhere, for example in a public car park or a non restricted area.

Who does what?

Surrey County Council as the highway authority is responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of the parking controls, parking strategy and policy, and all the legal work involved in the making of the corresponding traffic regulation orders (TROs) required.

Mole Valley District Council manages enforcement and administration of on street parking controls on behalf of the county council.

MVLC 06 March 2013