

Micheldever Parish Council -

Special Public Meeting re : Proposed parking management in Micheldever Station

Present - Neville Crisp, WCC Engineering & Transport Dept. William Helen, Chair MPC

HCC Jackie Porter, WCC Stephen Godfrey

MPCs - Chris Compton, John Botham, Peter O'Keefe, David Wandless, Charlotte Cobb, Andy Adams, David James

1. Welcome & Introduction - WH. Recommended car sharing as a way to reduce the parking problem. Need for the wider community to consider sharing, and reducing their speed whilst driving along straight roads such as Overton Rd. Suggested alternate side parking to slow traffic down.

Additional problem with cars parking on grass banks, private roads such as New Rd, private car parks such as Ellis Drive and the Dove car park.

Additional problem caused by cars choosing to drive to park in our village outside Winchester, where parking fees are lower, whilst the car park at Winchester has spaces.

Long term problem and the Parish Council has been working hard for several years to try to find a solution that is best for the whole Community.

2. NC - thanked the community for turning out on a bad night and recognised that it showed the strength of the feeling. WCC has been trying to take piecemeal steps to try to help, over recent years, but recognised it just displaced the parking.

Yellow Lines would impact on residents as well, but easy to apply.

No parking at all would mean speeding would increase. A chicane would slow traffic.

3. From the floor - Problems -

- Overnight parking, abusive parkers when challenged.
- JP - Parkers come from various places, Andover, Northington etc. and there is a need to ensure the Station remains a viable station as it is valued by the community.
- Increased Station parking won't solve the problem without local restrictions.
- Increased restrictions could drive cars onto private roads. NC said restrictions could be placed on Private Rds with the agreement of residents. It is possible to make access only areas on Private Rds.
- Residents parking permits would be costly for residents as there is no economy of scale as in Winchester. Parking bays would be needed.
- Not possible to make residents only spaces without permit parking. Illegal.
- Yellow lines policed rarely.
- Hidden entrances very dangerous for residents and speeding cars.

4. Possible Solutions

- Residents without off road parking need residents parking, not yellow lines.
- Railway land used for parking - Network Rail against use of the land for parking. Not co-operative.
- Short period restrictions could reduce the cost of policing restrictions
- Controlled zones would mean fewer yellow lines and just put signs at entrance of the village
- Rumble strips, a low cost solution could temper the speed of cars and raise awareness of the approach of the village. J P said she would be happy to take the idea forward if the community happy with the increased noise. (Not sleeping policemen)
- Residents parking policed weekly which is why it is effective but expensive.

Other road problems in the village -

- Mill Place resident - problem not just speed, it's the weight of the traffic, i.e. articulated lorries. dangerous for cyclists especially at the junction of Andover Rd. with Overton Rd.
- Work is ongoing to try to solve the problem at the junction. A stop sign is not possible, but extra work is being done to repaint the cross road and cut back the foliage.
- Suggested possible solution to move the traffic lights from the bridge to include Overton Rd. Or change the right of way across the junction to Overton Rd, although it would increase the speed in Overton Rd.
- Flooding on Overton Rd - Drainage plans in progress in Overton Rd to be tied in with possible new parking restrictions.
- No markings at the entrance of Brunel Close leading to dangerous activity at the Station car park entrance. NC surprised to hear the lack of marking.
- Private roads could introduce their own parking schemes.
- Suggestion that the Community put up their own residents only signs advised that it was illegal to put none HCC signs on the highway.
- JP - issue of how far out do we go from the village to stop parking.
- Issue if a chicane used is it dangerous to get out of the car in the road side on Overton Rd.
- Does the Community want to challenge the government and network rail over provision of parking.
- Could a 20 mph scheme be implemented? Very unlikely to be allowed by Police.

Conclusion

Traffic Order needed and time for objectors to make comment. First a satisfactory scheme that satisfies most residents, that accommodates on road parking for residents especially on Andover Rd. Room for some parking on Overton Rd to slow traffic and to enable outsiders to park. NC felt it was wrong to exclude all outside parking.

Nearby villages must be able to use the Station.

Station must be used if it is to remain viable.

NC took a straw poll of those willing to use permit parking. Surprised at response.

NC issued papers for individual comments which can be handed in and sent to HCC NC.

NC will put a few suggested schemes to every resident for comment and review comments with the Councillors. All replies will be considered and a preferred scheme chosen after final reference to the Community.

We are on this year's HCC list and budget so it is important that the scheme is right as for it to be amended would mean starting all over again. It takes a long time and must be right or it could be stopped by legal objection.

NB -All options considered and all suggestions welcomed from the Community. Responses for HCC to the Old Stores Andover Rd or to the cafe at Warren Centre Tuesday - Saturday 2-4pm by October 14th

Notes from the meeting to be put on the website.