

# Planning, Regeneration and Transport

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The Occupier  
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Stevenage  
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Dear Resident

## Re: Grove Road Petition

As you may be aware, Stevenage Borough Council have been presented with a petition regarding parking in Grove Road that has been organised by Mrs A Biucchi.

Following receipt of the petition we arranged to meet local councillors on 4th December to consider the points raised on the petition and would respond as follows:

Residents have petitioned the council to "establish similar parking regulations to those which apply in Church Lane, i.e. parking, excluding residents' vehicles, limited to 3 hours with no return within 4 hours".

The limited waiting restrictions in Church Lane apply to all and do not exclude residents' vehicles. In fact there is no provision in law to be able to exclude residents vehicles and no practicable way of identifying residents vehicles without implementing a full permit scheme.

Residents have also petitioned the council to protect vehicle accesses with white line markings.

The council has not provided "non-enforceable" white lines for this purpose for a number of years since a change in the law enabled us to issue penalty charge notices for obstruction of driveway accesses. We would encourage any resident to call the parking office on 01279 655261 to report any incidence of dropped kerb obstruction and they will arrange for a civil enforcement officer to attend.

Residents have petitioned the council for " a residents' parking permit scheme to be implemented as soon as possible".

To introduce a permit scheme the council would need to establish a "controlled parking zone". There are currently no such zones in Stevenage. For such a scheme, the costs of administration (issuing of resident and visitor permits etc.) and the costs



of enforcement (deployment of civil enforcement officers) would have to be met from penalty charge income and by charging residents for permits. Residents within these zones in other districts are generally required to pay around £50 for a parking permit for their first car and around £100 for any subsequent cars in the household and about £1 for a voucher each time a visitor wants to park. However zones generally extend to a number of streets to avoid undue displacement of vehicles into neighbouring streets. Creating a zone just for Grove Road would cause the cost to be spread between relatively few people (especially as there are a good number of properties in the street with their own off-street parking who would be unlikely to purchase permits) and as a result the cost of permits would be likely to be much higher than the typical prices quoted above. It must be borne in mind also that purchasing a permit does not guarantee anyone a space on-street. The council, for these reasons, is not currently minded to introduce a controlled parking zone for Grove Road.

However, in order to collect more evidence to guide future decision making, we will carry out surveys on the street to quantify the number of resident and non-resident cars present and the number of available spaces at various times of the day. We would encourage any resident to contact us and let us know the registration numbers of their vehicles so that we can discount them from any counts.

Residents have petitioned the council to provide loading only bays in the street.

It would be extraordinary to provide loading bays in a residential street as doing so would necessitate permanently removing parking spaces from outside residents' houses. Loading bays are generally only justifiable outside commercial premises where there is a significant amount of loading activity. The issue of vehicle obstruction caused by goods vehicles was discussed at our meeting on 4th December. Councillors were interested in re-examining the option of opening the road through to Victoria Close at the top end. This option would have the benefit that there would be two access points so, if the road is obstructed, there will always be an alternative way in for residents. It also means that there would no longer be any need for these large vehicles to turn around in the street. This option was aired at a public meeting a couple of years ago and most residents were opposed at the time. However this is an option which would benefit residents without needing to subject them to any new charges so we could progress this if residents were supportive.

Best regards,



Engineering Services