

16th January 2020

Ka Ng
Corporate Director
Resources, Environment and Cultural Services
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
Herts, AL8 6AE

Re: Applecroft Road Parking Consultation – Notice of Intention (16/12/19)

Ref: JC/12128

Dear Mr Ng,

I am a resident of Applecroft Road living at [REDACTED] I am writing to you in response to the notice of intention proposing a no waiting restriction on Applecroft Road Monday to Friday between the hours of 9 am and 11 am.

The road has become congested over time with traffic from the school drop off and pick as well as commuter parking. This at times has caused traffic jams and can be a danger to children at the school, which my son also attends, and I would agree that action does need to be taken.

As I understand there are already restrictions in place especially towards the junctions which have a no waiting at any time e.g. double yellow lines. This does not seem to have been enforced and I rarely see traffic enforcement officers at peak times. There are also white H-bars which few residents, including myself, know the purpose of.

The new proposed plans seem to penalise residents who live on the road and who own more than one car which is likely the majority of residents. Half of the properties on the road also do not have space for more than one car on the driveway.

We have two cars in our household and I often work from home. Under the new proposals we would not be permitted to park our second car on the street between the hours of 9 am and 11 am during the working week. There are many residents along the street that are in the same situation and even some that work shifts so that they will need to park their cars on the street during the day. It is therefore impractical to implement such plans as residents would have not place to park additional cars.

I would suggest that permit parking for residents only would be a better solution, especially to prevent commuter parking along the road.

Please regard this letter as a strong objection for the new proposed parking restrictions along Applecroft Road.

I am sure you will take our objections into account during the decision process and I look forward to your response to our concerns.

Yours Sincerely



APPENDIX A

Attribute	Value
-----------	-------

Note Email received : From [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2020 13:32
To: Contact-WHC
Subject: Objection to proposed Applecroft Road parking JC/12128

WARNING: This email originated outside the WHBC Network. Please be extra vigilant when opening attachments or clicking links.

Dear Ms Ng

I wish to object to the proposed parking restrictions in your letter dated 16th December on the following grounds.

The 9-11am Mon-Fri No Waiting will prevent residents from parking outside their own houses during the week. Many households on the northern side of Applecroft Road have a small driveway that can accommodate one car, but are two car families, including myself. The restrictions assume that residents are able to move their cars before 9am. However, this is not possible for many groups such as:

Stay at home parents
People who walk/cycle to work
People who take public transport to work
People who do not have Mon-Fri 9-5 jobs
Retirees

I am a stay at home parent, and in order to adhere to the restrictions I would have to put my young son into the car before 9am, drive it to another location, and then walk home. Given that local roads are subject to restrictions this would be very difficult. It would also have a negative impact on the school community by increasing traffic immediately prior to 9am as residents sought to park their cars elsewhere. This will cause more congestion and reduce the safety for those walking to school.

I see no provision in the plans for residents to park outside their houses in the week, and this is a huge oversight. Personally this would negatively impact my quality of life and that of my son, and force me to use my car at a time when it would otherwise be safely parked.

Attribute	Value
-----------	-------

A better solution would be to introduce residents parking bays where there are currently no restrictions. Where the H bars are to be removed and on the corners of the road, these should be replaced with No Waiting at any time to improve vision to pedestrians and also prevent parents parking across residents' driveways, which is currently a significant problem. The parking bays could permit short stay parking of 30 mins to non-residents to allow for parents to drop off and pick up from school.

My husband, [REDACTED] has written to you under separate cover as the proposed restrictions will prevent him from being able to keep his Fire & Rescue service car outside the house between 9 and 11am, and thus impact on his ability to provide emergency response to the community. We ask that you take both our objections into consideration, as these are on separate grounds.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Labels

Attachments

Jack Carson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 January 2020 17:41
To: Contact-WHC
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Parking Consultation - Handside 3 - For Attention of Parking Services
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: This email originated outside the WHBC Network. Please be extra vigilant when opening attachments or clicking links.

Parking Consultation - Handside 3 - Applecroft School Parking Improvement Scheme

Dear Sir / Madam

We are residents of [REDACTED]

Firstly, a point of order.

The letter you sent to residents on 15 November 2019 stated that "Anyone wishing to object to the proposed parking restrictions may write to the Council by 20th January 2020 using the details supplied in the public notice. ". We have checked the notice attached to the lamppost outside, and we can see no contact details. So we are sending this to the generic email address, which is not particularly satisfactory.

Objection 1:

The consultation paper states that the parking problem is caused by commuters parking in the free spaces. However, in our 20 years of residency in the street, we have encountered no parking by commuters. We doubt that the consultation paper is based on robust data. In our experience, the non-resident parking is almost entirely related to the Children's Centre, providers of extra-curricular activities at the school (e.g. music teachers or sports group leaders) or friends & relatives of residents. All of these groups will be negatively impacted by the proposed 09:00 – 11:00 ban.

Objection 2:

Applecroft Road has seen a significant increase in through traffic since the speed bumps and zebra crossing were added to Valley Road. The road that passes one of the largest primary schools in WGC is now a main artery connecting the A1M/B197/Valley Road to Parkway and town (including avoiding the A6129 past Stanborough School which is heavily congested in mornings). Therefore a road free from parked cars road will further increase traffic, and increase the traffic speed.

If the increased use of the road was addressed then there wouldn't be so much congestion. Only people that require the school would use the road rather than others cutting through. Reducing the speed limit to 20 mph would satisfy this. Although we are aware this is something for Highways.

Objection 3:

The Children's Centre was allowed to operate by the council, but without provision for parking. Removing parking would impact expectant mothers and those with babies and early years children who will be obliged to park in neighbouring streets, and this will presumably lead to a fall in attendance at the Centre. 09:00 – 11:00 is also a time when some SEND children tend to arrive at school, so this is another vulnerable group who will encounter difficulties, and who will impact the neighbouring streets.

Objection 4:

As parents of school children, we are aware that it is sometimes necessary to pick up or drop off children who are unwell or who have other appointments (e.g. dentist). In our experience, these usually occur in the morning – i.e. at the times when parking is proposed to be banned. This is bound to increase parking on neighbouring streets and/or increase the risk of accidents as children attempt to cross Applecroft Road at a time when traffic will be speeding along the road.

Objection 5:

The houses on Applecroft Road that are set forward tend to have smaller driveways. The road is not in the Estate Management Scheme area, so there is no restriction on residents destroying hedges and concreting over front gardens in order to accommodate those vehicles that are currently parked on the street overnight. In our case, it would mean cutting down a hedge and paving over a front garden that has been planted purposefully with bird- and bee friendly flowers and shrubs.

Objection 6:

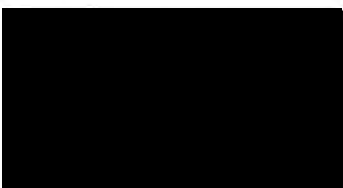
It is now more common for office-based workers to work from home. For both of us, our employers have introduced environmentally-friendly policies that mean we each work two days a week from home. This reduces our carbon emissions related to commuting by 40%. We both need our cars in different ways for our work and family so we require somewhere to leave the vehicles while they are not emitting pollutants: we would need to concrete over our front garden if the 09:00-11:00 ban comes into force. We doubt we are the only residents facing this issue.


Objection 7:

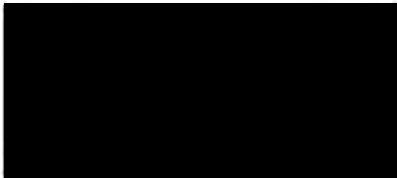
In our experience, the traffic moves most slowly at school drop-off & pick-up times. This is because the congestion naturally causes drivers to be more careful while they negotiate parked vehicles. With no parked cars, the speed of the road will increase. It is safer for users of the school and Children's Centre (as well as residents) when there are parked cars. Removing any parked cars in the morning will inevitably increase the speed of the "rat run" traffic, and because residents would be likely to park vehicles on drives overnight, the speed increase will also be experienced late at night and early in the morning.

In our opinion, a better solution to improve safety would be to consult with the Highways department at the County Council and introduce a 20mph zone.

Yours faithfully



CCd for info to: Applecroft School; Applecroft Children's Centre; 



8 January 2020

Ka Ng
Parking Services
Council Offices
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6AE

Dear Mr Ng

Re Handside 3 Parking proposals as of 18 December 2019

I have received the Notice of Intention and associated map. I wish to make an objection to the proposals.

The problems for residents:

- Volume of traffic
- Speed of traffic
 - The volume and speed of traffic has increased significantly since the installation of speed bumps along a 'B' road, Valley Road which is a designated route for through traffic. As a consequence traffic now diverts along Applecroft Road which has become a 'rat run'
- Parking by non-residents
 - parking on the north side of Applecroft Road are by the following:
 - parents dropping off children between 8.30 and 9.30 and collecting between 3.00pm and 4pm
 - visitors to the Children's Centre, after 9.30pm
 - staff and visitors to the school such as peripatetic teachers, etc
- vision difficulties for children crossing the road and cars coming out of driveways and from parking spots

WHC proposal

The perceived problem

- Commuter parking all along the northside of Applecroft Road

The solution

- Install parking restriction of no parking between 9.00am and 11.00am, Monday to Friday

This solution does not solve the current problems

- The users of the school and children's centre will park in the road after 11.00
- Residents will not be able to leave their cars outside their house resulting in increased parking pressures on surrounding roads
- Paving over of front gardens which is negative for wildlife and water drainage.

My suggestions:

As per your proposal

- 'No Waiting At Any Time' from the corner of Handside Lane and Applecroft Road to Number 2 Applecroft Road. Possibly there is some all day parking in this location however the 'No Waiting at Any Time' will make the junction of Handside Lane and Applecroft Road much safer as visibility will improve, cars can wait at the junction more safely, crossing both roads by pedestrians will be safer

No other change to parking restrictions

- Keep parking restrictions along the remainder of the north side of Applecroft Road as it is at present, ie some areas with no restrictions, some areas with restrictions during school drop and pick up during term time only

Additional measures to address the problems

- Introduce traffic calming measures,
Traffic calming measures could be
 - Speed bumps at the west and east entry points to Applecroft Road
 - Speed cameras
 - Make Applecroft Road 'one way' and a parallel road 'one one way' in the other direction eg Young Rise.
- Increase parking availability with in the grounds of Applecroft School for their visitors
- Appoint a Crossing Patrol during school times (there was one previously)

Please can you confirm receipt of this letter by post.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely

