

**Public Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> November 2007**  
**The Recital Room, Peter Symonds College, Winchester**  
**7.30 pm to 9.00 pm**

Present: Steve Feeney (Chair), Councillor Ann Saunders, Councillor Eileen Berry, County Councillor Phrynette Dickens, Paul Warren (Peter Symonds College Bursar)

Silent observing role - Martin Todd (PPC LibDem)

Apologies: Neville Crisp (Traffic Engineer), A resident from St Stephen's Road, Steve Brine (PPC Cons)

34 members of the public present.

**Introduction by Steve Feeney**

Some residents say they have received information about the proposed parking restrictions, some have not. Steve explained the history behind how this meeting came about.

Steve's opinions about the proposed restrictions:

- Opposed to any parking restrictions in residential areas.
- He recognises there is a problem in Vernham Road.
- Would like to see a result that solves the problem with the minimum impact on local residents.

Steve introduced the local Councillors and explained that Martin Todd was present in a listening role only.

An email received today from Neville Crisp states that because of the number of objections already received, the proposals would most likely be referred back to committee.

Steve shared the information on the website ([www.stevefeeney.com/protest](http://www.stevefeeney.com/protest)) with the meeting. He explained the photographs, which clearly show:

- the number of cars parked at the Bereweeke Avenue end of Vernham Road is higher during term time than during the October half term.
- Residents are not always able to reverse out of their own driveways.
- Vernham Road was clear before Lynford Avenue has restrictions in place.
- Some residents felt the photographs were not truly representative, as there were not many cars parked along Wessex Drive. Steve explained that he had tried to take them at the same time and day of the week, once during the October half Term and again a week later.
- Clearly parking is an issue in Vernham Road.

Steve asked for other comments from the residents.

- The Tennis Club hold a tournament each year during which Kynegils Road is blocked. There is no space for an ambulance to get through.
- Wessex Drive have had to 'shoo away' people trying to park at the narrow end of their road. Residents have to park on the grass in order to leave space for others to get through.

Councillor Saunders was asked to respond

- This is a long running problem and students have moved around from various roads in the area.
- Lynford Way is narrower than Vernham Road, St Stephens Road, St Matthews Road etc. and an ambulance was unable to get through.
- This is a suburban area and she understands the problems.
- A questionnaire was put out to residents.
- Cllr Saunders & Cllr Berry feel it is up to the residents in Vernham Road to decide.
- People want something more flexible.
- We can go back to Neville Crisp.
- Term time only restrictions could be confusing.
- Spoke about the excellent college
- Comment that youngsters are very aware of their carbon footprint.

Paul Warren (PSC Bursar) said that information goes out to all students about their travel arrangements to college advising them to travel by foot, bus and cycle.

Peter Symonds is the largest college in the area and the number of students is huge. Anything he can do, he will.

There has been no discussion between the college and the council. The Bursar wants to keep good relations with the council.

Cllr Saunders agrees with the Bursar that the college and the council can work together.

Steve made known a suggestion from a resident - to extend the Park & Ride route to include the college. The Bursar agrees this is a good idea as it would benefit staff as well.

Cllr Saunders says that Park & Ride is up for review.

County Councillor Phrynnette Dickens spoke about Park & Ride. This is a County issue. Planning approval has gone through but the routes are still up for discussion. Possible routes are 1 via St Cross and 1 via Romsey Road & the west of Winchester. Phrynnette would support this.

### **An open discussion followed during which the following points were made:**

How can the students be made to use Park & Ride?

The Bursar says that they are able to put pressure on students about their travelling arrangements through the College / Student Agreement.

Clive Beard - Vernham Road said that the consultation in May had limited options. He made the following points.

- There has been no feedback about the consultation to residents.
- Only notices placed on lampposts.
- Why doesn't the college know about this problem.
- There should be proper parking for students at the college.
- He suggests that the proposed restrictions should be thrown out until there has been proper dialogue between the college and the council.

Questions were asked about the expansion of the college. The Bursar assures people that the number of students has not significantly increased in the last two years and nor has it done so as a result of the new building project.

Resident asked if yellow lines are in place restricting parking to Monday to Friday 9 - 4, will we get a reduction in council tax?

Point raised that if Peter Symonds College was a production company it would be expected to provide its own parking.

A resident said that at a meeting in 2001 it was reported that the college numbers were increasing by 200 per year.

The Bursar said the number of students is 2825. The college have no plans to increase student numbers. They don't want to expand the parking, as this does not encourage students to use other forms of travelling. They already encourage car sharing. The Learning and Skills Council control the growth of the college and any growth would be with residents on their side. Parking on the north side of Bereweeke Road has been refused. The college need to discourage use of cars.

The point is made that Students like to drive their cars. The college need to work with the council to provide proper parking or an alternative.

Wessex Drive resident where the road is half-width stated that:

- Some students did try to park in their road.
- The residents put stickers on their cars and they moved away.
- Why is such a blanket coverage of restrictions - 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday proposed?
- In Kew, for example, there is a restriction between 10 am and Midday.

The comment was made that if Winchester has decided that 'one size fits all' because it is more convenient, is there any flexibility are we set with this rule?

Alan Mitchell made the following points:

- There is one rule for all of Winchester. Lynford Avenue and Lynford Way residents had the same objections.
- If more than 50 people did not want the restrictions the council would have to re-consider.

- He re-iterated that the fixed times for waiting restrictions in the whole of Winchester are to provide consistency and avoid any confusion for people who park.

Point raised - If we live in a democracy then surely if a majority of people want something then it should happen.

Cllr Ann Saunders said that there has been a change and there is no longer a Traffic Committee but a cabinet and sub-committee. She can press them on flexible timing. She said this 'rule' needs investigating.

County Cllr Phrynnette Dickens said that local authorities will be able to introduce new by-laws and she will talk to Neville Crisp.

A resident from Berewecke Road is aware of the movement of cars and that restrictions will have a knock-on effect. A strategy is needed between the college and the City Council. The parking problem has gone on since the mid-90's.

Point raised that the field opposite the college could take these cars and that the college should be taking the initiative. The situation is not going to go away.

The Bursar pointed out that the field is a sports field. Comments were made that a sports field should not be used for parking.

Steve said that one resident had expressed to him that their biggest concern is safety.

The Bursar is asked whether there is any geographical evidence about restrictions on who drives to college? He re-iterates that the college encourages students to walk and use public transport. They are limited to what they can do although they will do everything they can. The problem is not just for the college to solve alone.

Question asked about safety - Do the Police have powers to have cars moved?

Cllr Eileen Berry has tried to do this in the past but it can not be enforced and the problem goes on. She made the follow points;

- The problem is student cars.
- Working together the college must take on half of the responsibility for their students.
- She feels the college need parking. If the council has any land could they provide parking?

Comment made that there will always be students from rural areas who will need to drive to college. Suggested writing to local residents to see if their driveways could be offered for parking.

The questionnaire on the survey did not allow for choices.

Clive Beard would prefer to see no yellow lines. Is it parking permits or free bays? The plan suggests free bays.

Resident suggested 10am to 4 pm Monday to Friday parking restriction.

Resident in Kynegils Road feels the parking problem is the responsibility of the college.

Steve asks the councillors if decisions can be delayed?

The Bursar said there are 28 parking spaces available opposite the college and 2825 students at the college.

Cllr Saunders said that Government guidance says that parking should be refused.

Eileen Berry feels that the council should find a solution for the college.

A resident raised a question about Park and Ride on Three Maids Hill. Cllr Saunders said this was linked to the Barton Farm development. Phrynnette Dickens said that it would be some way off in the future but the aim is to have Park and Ride all around Winchester. A second has already been approved.

Comment made from resident about parking bays. Would road sweepers be able to get round?

Where does the funding come from for the yellow lines. Cllr Saunders said that whilst it is paid for from local

taxes there is income generated from traffic enforcement (fines).

A resident suggested 'Residents Only Parking' signs to deter students from parking in these roads.

Direct action such as using cones outside homes to prevent driveways being blocked.

Emailed suggestion that each household is issued with 1 resident permit but no visitor permit.

Question asked - Is the rule (8-6 mon to sat) a legal issue? Reply - No a policy issue.

The consultation was in May and it is now November. Has the consultation been published?

Reply - 52% of those who responded voted for 'A' which was to have yellow lines.

Resident raised a point that a driver from Patient Transport comment on the safety issues of the parking problem.

A resident gave photographs as evidence of the parking problem to Cllr Saunders.

Alan Mitchell said that the Police should be able to give 'right of access' to driveways.

Phrynette Dickens said that Neville Crisps believes that yellow lines are what residents want. She suggests;

- They go back to the officers.
- Explain the unhappiness of the residents.
- Halt the proceedings.
- There is a need to be clear about the problem.

Suggestion from resident 10 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday restriction in all roads.

Can disabled bays be included?

Can it be term time only?

**To get a feel for what people want.**

Three votes were held as separate options to be considered by the council:

**Proposed** - Parking restriction Monday to Friday 10am to 4 pm - 26 people in favour, 3 against

**Proposed** - Should the council and college work together on this - unanimous.

**Proposed** - If given the choice - Would residents prefer to have nothing at all? - 11 people in favour, 2 against.

Question asked - what about the people who are not at the meeting? Letters should be sent before 15<sup>th</sup> November to Mr Bone (copy to Neville Crisp). Members of households can send separate letters that will be counted.

Steve thanked the Bursar and the Councillors for attending the meeting. Steve was thanked for chairing the meeting.

Meeting Closed 21:00