

NEWSLETTER

www.portmore.org.uk

SPECIAL CPZ ISSUE: JAN 2009

Local Heritage Open Spaces Green Belt Quality of Life Community Liaison with Councils

Residents Parking 'to go ahead' – but where?

Sign in
Minorca
Road



Thank you for your comments after our last newsletter

The comments were taken to Surrey County Council (page 3). At the meeting it was explained to us that the problem to be solved is "a conflict in demand for on-street parking between residents, commuters and shoppers"; and their aim is to manage demand in a way which is more suited to the needs of residents. A CPZ has to be implemented because of the situation in roads immediately adjacent to the High St.

Surrey want to avoid a piecemeal approach which is why more roads are being consulted. It would be some years before another major scheme might be possible.

Jessemey Road is now included, alongside **all** the original roads inside the dotted line shown in the diagram on **Page 2** (reproduced from the December Newsletter). They all have the ability to decide to opt out, while the rest of **Thames St.** and **Dorney Grove** have the ability to opt in.

See page 2 for two sides of the debate

Soon to be driving at 20

The 20mph speed limit should be implemented during February. It will affect all the traffic calmed area up to the junction of the Thames and Wey, and some adjacent roads.

It is several years since the statutory consultation process happened (2005). Many people will have forgotten that the orders were published or did not see them on lamp-posts etc. - and will be surprised when they see the signs going up now. Four objections were reported in this original process, and concerned the High Street.

Surrey's consultation

Do you live in the "zone"? Have you received a questionnaire from Surrey County Council? They should be dropping through our letter boxes any time at the end of January or early February.

Many concerns will have been answered (page 3). Some will remain and Surrey's questionnaire allows you to add comments as well as ticking boxes. PP&DRA highlight the following areas where you might like to comment; and what you say may be essential to the final design.

1. When would you like a scheme to operate? (**Start, Finish, Days**). We believe that these times may be common throughout the CPZ.
2. Should **your road** be part of the scheme?
3. Do you have any preferences for **visitor arrangements**? (See page 3 for comment and for people dependent upon a visitor). If it is a voucher system, how many vouchers do you think you would need a year?
4. There will be some free short-term parking (e.g., **spaces shared** perhaps with shoppers, visitors, school pick-ups, congregations at the church in Portmore Park). How long do you think the allowed time should be in your road (e.g., 1 hour, 2 hours, do not mind, etc)?
5. Are any there any junctions, traffic islands etc which are **unsafe** at any time of day?
6. **How many** cars would you like permits for? Should the **limit** be for each household, or perhaps a permit for each resident with a car instead? Would you mind if your limit might be **reduced** if you have off-road parking? (See page 3 for what we have been told).

**Sign up for the newsletter by e-mail?
Let us know if you are a member and have
not received this newsletter by e-mail.**

**Do you support the aims of PP&DRA?
Have you subscribed this year? Details on page 4...**

Residents' views on the merits of the scheme

The Residents Association may have been focusing more on the practicalities in its dealings with Surrey County Council, but there are different views on the scheme as a whole which have been expressed with some passion.

Four examples of residents' views appear in the boxes. Each makes important points.

Views in favour

"Parking is never anything but a nightmare. I cannot count the number of times my wife has had to lug two small children and all the detritus that goes with them about a 1/4 of a mile to the house.

These problems have become far worse since the prices went up in the local car parks as shoppers and workers are now queuing to park from about 7.30am every day. This problem does not calm down until between 6pm and 7pm, when the restaurant / pub crowd park everywhere and the problems start again."

"Volumes of non-resident vehicle parking are rapidly increasing, with hundreds of cars circling the area throughout the day looking for free parking.

This is resulting in cars being dangerously parked, and in accidents. Our car was crashed into last month when parked outside our house. This was a result of parking related congestion in the road."

Views against

"Once the restrictions are in place it becomes a license for the local authority to print money!! They can, and do increase the cost of the annual ticket; they limit the number of visitors tickets so no more are given to you when you run out. Everyone who visits, even trades people need one.

There is a domino effect. Once one road has it, then everyone thinks they should have it to stop the cars which would have parked in the other road coming into theirs."

"The introduction of residents parking will only lead to more office/shop workers parking in the Grotto Road area, which will impact on those residents. This in turn would lead to the introduction of residents parking there, until eventually the whole of Weybridge will become a residents parking area; with I believe a negative impact on all our lives and on the business community/shops in Weybridge.

I do sympathise with the issue faced by residents living in the roads adjacent to the High Street such as those at the back of Waitrose. However, I believe that these problems only started when parking charges were introduced to the car park next to St James Church. Can we not revert to having no parking charges there, whereby there would be more custom for Weybridge shops/businesses and no need for residence parking areas at all?"

The Residents Association

The Residents Association tries to be impartial, while individual members can (and do) hold strong opinions. This diversity is also reflected within the Committee and was apparent at the AGM, where residents voted overwhelmingly to lobby Surrey to expedite their consultation. Nobody likes uncertainty. We want the consultation to be a success and for residents to benefit from the best possible solutions to the problems they face. The majority of feedback has been supportive of the scheme, and was overwhelming in the roads which are currently worst affected. **Everybody has the chance for their say during Surrey's consultation.**

Zone as originally proposed -----
(now extended towards the River Thames
- see page 1)



Residents sub-committee meet the people responsible

Four people took time out to travel to the County Hall in Kingston. Surrey Councillor Ian Lake set the meeting up for us with the team, and joined in. Responses had been received from about 80 residents raising issues about how the scheme would work if it happened, and what it would mean for them.

There were also a lot of questions. All of these were summarised in a paper given to County Hall, which you may have seen if you have visited our 'on-line' discussion forum. We made suggestions which will have led to some changes. These are some of the areas which have been major causes for concern:

Loss of Capacity

The only reduction in parking capacity outside the hours of the scheme should be a few corners where yellow lines may be introduced for reasons of safety and obstruction.

Within the hours of the scheme, people will not be able to park within 10 metres of most proper road junctions (i.e., 1 – 2 car lengths each side). The point from which the measurement is made is such that the effective loss of parking space is minimised without compromising safety.

Residents can park across their own drive, subject to having a permit within hours.

Costs

These are to be decided, but residents should not use London Boroughs as a benchmark. Surrey asked us to say that "they will not be beyond the aim of recovering 'reasonable costs' in administering the scheme". PP&DRA note that the charges for a permit in 2008 in Elmbridge did not exceed £35.

Visitors

The PP&DRA committee believe that the question of visitors might be the most contentious issue. Surrey's concern is to limit abuse, based on their experience, and usually prefer vouchers to avoid this.

We have asked for people dependent upon a visitor (e.g., elderly residents) to have a permit which is not for a specific vehicle. This is feasible and we hope it will happen.

Confusing – but do you know which council is responsible?

Car Park Charges

Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) have gained few friends among residents with their policy towards car park charges. Many felt that they have made the situation worse.

So you may have been one of those who said that the Council should reduce the charges rather than introduce a CPZ.

If only life was that simple. Surrey County Council (SCC) is responsible for on-street parking. EBC is responsible for off-street parking in the car parks it manages.

Roads in which residents can park

Residents will be able to park in any road within the new CPZ. They will not be able to use permits in the Weybridge South CPZ (e.g., Baker St). Similarly, residents in other zones will not be able to use their permits here.

Number of cars or permits per household

Permits will be available for residents to be able to park 'all their current vehicles'. Otherwise, whatever restrictions are in place will apply when the situation in each household changes. Most schemes limit the number per household.

Most permits will show the registration. Surrey have noted our point that some people will have different vehicles on different occasions (e.g., because of work). Details are not fixed, so comments to Surrey will be important.

Review of how it is working

There is no automatic post-implementation review, but it is monitored and can be 'tweaked' after a trial period (and at any time after that). This takes a year or so to assess and carry out.

This would also allow roads, which originally decided to opt-out/ opt-in, to change their mind.

Other topics

People had told us about many more, ranging from schools to skips. These were raised and a summary of the meeting can be seen on the Forum (page 4). The council will also put more details onto their website for the consultation period.

Residents Permit

So decisions on permits are SCC's responsibility. EBC cannot get its hands on any surplus from a CPZ scheme, while SCC cannot get hold of any Car Park revenue. You might still be confused: parking attendants wear EBC insignia as EBC do the administration on behalf of Surrey.

What is more, the CPZ accounts within each district are "ring fenced" and can only be used for running CPZ's. CPZ's in Elmbridge have not made a surplus; but that could change and some fear EBC might try to 'break down the fence'.

Still confused – we don't blame you!

Portmore Park & District Residents Association

The time-table

- The initial design is taking place during January. The PP&DRA report on views of local residents will be one of the considerations to be taken into account.
- An informal local consultation is planned to start end of January and runs for 3 weeks.
- PP&DRA has requested an opportunity for local residents to discuss plans with members of the team and, subject to practical constraints, there may be an exhibition at the Church Hall in Portmore Park Road.
- Presentation of of the scheme to the Local Elmbridge Committee for approval (9th March).

- Following further design and preparatory work that will take account of comments and suggestions from the informal consultation, statutory orders will be advertised during the Summer, and allow members of the public and other parties to make any formal objections. The final scheme may be amended, depending upon an analysis of the objections.
- Formal approval is expected late Summer, after which there will be all the preparatory work for implementation.
- Residents will see the work being carried out at the end of 2009, with everything 'done and dusted' at the start of 2010.

Stay Informed

[December Newsletter is available on the Forum and Website]

The two best ways of keeping up to date are to be on our mailing list or to visit the online Forum.

The Mailing List

We distribute our Newsletter electronically (and in colour!) to members who are on our e-mailing list. They will also receive the very occasional newsflash (in headline form) if we hear of something which can affect people.

For example, they will have heard about the 20 mph speed limit, the 3G mobile phone mast by Waitrose and the withdrawal (for the moment) of the two planning applications featured in the December Newsletter.

The Forum

at <http://portmoreparkdra.ning.com>

is ideal for exchanging views and reading more beyond the headlines. It is not searchable by Google, so it is where we put documents which residents might like to read, without drawing them to the attention of the world.

For example, you could find a lot on parking, including links to strategy documents on Elmbridge Council's websites.

Its also where some sociable people chat about local topics.

Details on how to sign up to the forum can be obtained by e-mailing us or on the last page of the December Newsletter.

Keep us Informed Tell us about local issues, ideas and aspirations to put on our agenda or share in the newsletter

Aims of PP&DRA

We are a non-political association for local residents and focus generally on issues which disproportionately affect us and visitors to our area, compared to residents elsewhere in the borough.

How to join

By joining, we have the ability to make our voice heard.

Membership of PP&DRA is open to residents between the High Street and the Rivers Wey/ Thames. We have a nominal subscription of £3.00 (minimum) while many contribute £5.00 or more. This goes towards the cost of meetings and the Newsletter.

Getting involved

We are always keen to hear from people who would like to get involved, whether it be representing and liaising with your road, establishing a special interest group, or helping in any other way.

Contacting us

You can view our website www.portmore.org.uk (due to be updated 2009)

Contact us via any committee member, or email committee@portmore.org.uk

Visit our on-line discussion forum <http://portmoreparkdra.ning.com>

Or write: 3 The Swansway, (64) Portmore Park Rd, KT13 8HU

Apologies to people who had problems for about a week sending to our e-mail address. An ISP's anti-spam software decided to block us and a lot of other people. If you want to resend, we should get them.

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Portmore Park & District Residents Association Elected Committee for 2008-9

Michael Freeman (Chairman) 856973; Ian Bonnett (Treasurer) 856971; Gary Busteed; Tukun Chatterjee; Jessica Nolan;

John Phillips; Wendy Hoole; William Rutherford; Brian Scholey; Nick Patrick; Pippa Graeme; Jeremy Francis.