
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders

Date: 11 August 2014

Subject: Glebe Avenue & Lyall Close - Flitwick

Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways

Summary: This report presents representations received from residents seeking action to resolve long term non-residential parking in their road.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman: nick.chapman@amey.co.uk

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Flitwick

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

There is currently no funding allocated to implement any works in this area.

Legal:

None from this report

Risk Management:

None from this report

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None from this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report

Community Safety:

None from this report

Sustainability:

None from this report.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that the parking situation in Glebe Avenue and Lyall Close be assessed in more detail and a consultation exercise be undertaken with residents' to determine favoured option.

Background and Information

1. A petition has been received from 23 residents, whom are requesting the Council undertake an investigation into commuter parking problems in Glebe Avenue and Lyall Close to present options to residents.
2. Many roads in Flitwick already have parking restrictions that have been implemented over many years primarily to tackle commuter parking. It is inevitable there when restrictions are introduced there will be transference of parking to roads where parking is unrestricted. Glebe Avenue and Lyall Close currently have no on-street parking controls and are located about a quarter of a mile from the railway station.
3. On-site observations suggest that Glebe Avenue is already used for parking by commuters, but there is no evidence of significant use of Lyall Close. However, the two roads need to be considered together as parking controls in one would inevitably lead to a knock-on effect in the other.
4. It is recommended that the parking situation in Glebe Avenue and Lyall Close be assessed in more detail and a consultation exercise be undertaken to determine residents' favoured option. The alternative methods of addressing commuters parking would be a resident's permit parking zone or single yellow lines with alternating am/pm restrictions.

Parking in Glebe Avenue Flitwick

We are concerned about the increasing problem of long-term parking in Glebe Avenue Flitwick. This is a road of only 5.5 metres width which is the feeder road for over 200 houses. It is also used, quite acceptably, for short-term parking for people dropping off and collecting children from Flitwick Lower School. However, long term parkers are committing various offences, including parking opposite a dropped kerb, thereby obstructing residents from accessing driveways, parking at night without lights on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic and, parking on footpaths and, not least, obstructing the highway.

The way in which cars are parked all day and, quite commonly, for days on end, means that often passing vehicles have to be driven on the footpaths, thus putting pedestrians at risk and, on numerous occasions, children have been endangered. It is also common for cars to be parked on footpaths, so that wheelchair users and parents with children in prams are forced to use the road.

The management of on-street parking is the responsibility of Central Bedfordshire Council and, whilst we are aware that the Council has delegated highways management to Amey, this does not absolve the Council from its statutory duty. Furthermore the ultimate responsibility rests with the Council. Otherwise, what is the point of us electing you as our representatives. It may surprise you to know that Amey is not elected by us, but our local councillors are and seem to be oblivious and uncaring.

We would ask Central Bedfordshire Council, via our local Councillors, to give us a reasoned explanation as to why it has introduced alternate side parking restrictions in Hampden Road, but not in Glebe Avenue. The Council has obviously recognised that problems may arise in Hampden Road, but seems to have disregarded the possibility of similar problems arising in Glebe Avenue and ignored the dangers that have arisen.

The Local Area Transport Plan, published in April 2012, states the following:-

"Parking Restrictions

Commuter parking is a well recognised problem in Flitwick due to the high demand associated with access to the station. The only residents' parking zone in place across the Plan area is on Grasmere Close in Flitwick, and this is in place to restrict parking to residents only as a measure to eradicate commuter parking from the street.

However commuter parking is a problem elsewhere in the town "

No action seems to have been taken by the Council in the 22 months since then, despite this problem adversely affecting not just the residents of Glebe Avenue, but also those of Lyall Close and Townfield Road. We suggest that alternate side restricted parking in Glebe Avenue would be a start to solve the problems that we, as local residents, face and it is your duty to consider.

