

**Survey of Residents of Elm Close and Chestnut Close**

Below is the text from an incoming letter submitted by residents of Elm Close following a parking survey they undertook with residents of Elm Close and Chestnut Close. Residents were asked to provide the following information:

- House Number
- Resident Name
- Have you seen the parking restriction proposals
- FOR or AGAINSTS these proposals?
- Have you received any communication from the Local Authority/ or councillor?
- Do you know there will be NO PARKING at anytime in designated areas?
- Are you aware NO PERMITS will be available/ issued?
- Objections to whole of close becoming NO PARKING zone.
- Would you pay for parking permit?
- Residents Signatures

Alongside the letter a scanned copy of the survey results was supplied. The has not been published as doing so would breach the Council's GDPR rules. A total of 47 household responded to the survey, 40 responses were received from residents of Elm Close and 7 from residents of Chestnut Close. All bar one of responses indicated that the opposed the Council's proposals. The only response in support of the Council's proposals was from a resident of Elm Close.

Please refer to the main body of the report as potential changes to the proposals in Elm Close has been considered as a substantive issue.

As residents we are all in agreement that something needs to be done to tackle/ reduce this issue.

The proposed introduction of a 'NO PARKING AT ANY TIME' in the designated highlighted areas, we feel is not the best option for Residents, our reasons & those of our neighbours, are detailed below:

**Against the restriction Parking zone:**

1. Where will the cars that park in the area of Elm Close entrance going to go?  
Further into the Close and down into Chestnut Close?  
Whilst we appreciate that these car owners pay road tax and can park on the roads legally, but they should not be parking in the immediate area of the junction with Church Road (as per the Highway Code).  
Due to these drivers, and the restriction's you want to impose, the whole of our Close will suffer ALL YEAR round and cause more problems for us \*residents.
2. "There are many elderly residents who live within Elm Close (& in the adjacent Chestnut Close), which have regular family and allocated carers visiting; some on a daily basis to provide care and support within their homes. Parking on a drive is not always an option.  
Some driveways may appear large, but they are shared by homeowners and potentially having to repeatedly move their vehicles to make way is not a viable option as they are often caring for a vulnerable spouse.
3. When residents require some kind of work on their properties tradesmen will not be able to do so under your proposed enforced parking ban outside their customer's property. Yes, if tradesman is aware, they might be able to obtain a tradesman waiver from Wiltshire council – this bares a cost, and under the current difficult financial climate an additional £10-£15 per day soon adds up and may put people off. There may be time constraints of being granted the waiver!
4. Unless these restrictions are going to be Policed and monitored on a daily i.e., 5 days a week, drivers will continue to park there – they will only move/drive off when they see an enforcement/ Police officer.

As we understand, picking someone up in the restricted area/ pathway is permitted? How then can the authorities distinguish between a vehicle parking for a minute to pick up a homeowner or a parent collecting a child from one of the schools?

5. Parking on Church Road restrictions: – Where are these cars going to go?  
Firstly, further into Elm Close, possibly into Chestnut Close? As only part of this area has the proposed no parking - they will just move further into this area and other side roads!  
Adding additional restrictions at a later date i.e., extending the CPZ will only serve to penalize Elm Close and Chestnut Close residents further and not address the fundamental root cause.

6. Salisbury Mobile Library Service (a large mobile bus) parks in Elm Close, on a regular and weekly basis, where these proposed restrictions will be. Some residents with additional mobility aids are concerned how they will browse and change their books – along with socially interacting with their neighbours in such a short time frame – if any?
7. Homeowners want to be able to hold social gatherings with their family, friends and even neighbours – how will this be possible if they cannot park or take the illegal parking option?
8. We believe that grocery deliveries will be possible (i.e., Tesco/ Asda etc.) but what about other visitors if they need parking on the restricted areas?  
Taking the risk when “weekends would never be enforced” is not an option. (As recently written by a local Councillor).  
If this approach is needed it is not the answer to the problem.

**For the restriction Parking zone:**

- A. The immediate area at the entrance to Elm Close would be safer to drive into.
- B. Parking near driveways – this would facilitate easier ingress/egress by Elm Close residents to/from their driveways i.e., without fear of hitting a parked vehicle on the opposite side of the road.
- C. Where the cars are currently parking, some homeowners have been complaining about car owners sitting for up to 1hour with their engines running (heat in winter and air conditioning in the summer) leading to these residents not opening their windows due to exhaust emissions/ fumes seeping in.
- D. Verbal abuse from these parked drivers, when they have been politely asked to either 1) move away from the dropped curb/ entrances to residents’ driveways or 2) if they could turn off their engines.
- E. Some cars parked in these areas show little or no awareness for other road users – drivers, and children, open doors without checking for oncoming vehicles creating a near miss situation.
- F. It may improve safety for wheelchair/ walking aids or pushchairs not having to navigate parked vehicles and enable them to more cross safely.
- G. No parking on the grass verges on entrance to Elm Close.

After we were made aware of the proposed restrictions, and the now ramped up version! We have taken it upon ourselves to speak to some of the car owners who park here on a regular basis and to understand their reasons for doing so:

**The MAJORITY of the car owners are Teachers/ staff from Wyvern St Edmunds, stating there is not ENOUGH onsite parking for them.**

Others gave their responses as below:

I drop my children off at school and walk into town for my days' work, then return to collect my children after school.

Drop children off and then take dog for walk.

Drop children off and then visit local shop nearby (One stop).

Invigilators come into one of the secondary schools for several hours, then leave after their shift.

**The three Secondary schools and St Andrews primary school MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLY for the majority of these problems/issues – as virtually ALL of the problems occur in school term time only!**

**This should be the focus – not imposing parking restriction that will have a detrimental effect on us residents!**

So many cars park on Church Road – during the Start and end of school day, causing the escalating severe traffic congestion – with some using Elm Close entrance as a turning circle, not only blocking entry but exit for us residents going about our lives whether it be work or for other reasons. Outside these times (roughly between 8.15 -8.45am and 2.30 – 3.15pm) traffic congestion eased significantly.

**If these proposed and 'imposed' restrictions are allowed to take place it will be AGAINST the majority of Elm Close resident's wishes or support.**

**Chestnut Close residents also share in this as per the attached spreadsheet.**

If you then deem this "Phase 1" as a success and introduce a NO PARKING for the whole of Elm close and Chestnut Close you will just shift the problems further down the village. Most homes are 3 or 4 bedrooms with a minimum of 2 or 3 vehicles. Whilst some residences have sizable drives there are a significant number of properties which do not have driveways big enough to accommodate all. As such these residents use, and need to use, on road parking. Examples include varying work patterns, work for emergency services, and are support/ carers for their immediate family. Some have adult children who naturally have their own cars and consequently need on-road/on-street parking. **As said previously, these are family sized properties.**

Is making the whole area a No Parking Zone an option? We seriously hope not. What are the pros and cons of this? Could Resident and visitor parking permits be an option? Would Elm Close residents qualify?

*Nb: Yellow lines outside the school and on adjacent roads has been applied in Harnham but people still park over the yellow lines and still cause road blockages!*

### **Trial proposals: thoughts on potential trials**

A number of comments were raised whilst talking to our fellow residents and there listed below:

- Put cones on the proposed restriction site/ areas for a set time period (possibly a day, a week or longer) and see where these vehicles go/ end up.
- Make Elm and Chestnut Close NO ENTRY to non-residents zone, between school hours.
- Remove the width of the grass/ mud verge (school side) against existing path to enable the road to be widened (by approx. 1m). This would allow cars to pass without having to mount the pavement on the opposite side to the school boundary. Safety measures could be considered such as railings if deemed appropriate. – This would then alleviate the parking shortage for the Teachers/ staff – as previously mentioned.
- Church Road – a no stopping area – like airports.
- Put a hand operated barrier across the entrance into Elm Close, or a traffic island, to prevent cars using this as a turning circle to drop off their children & blocking road.
- Enforce these areas by using CCTV cameras with an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) positioned at the entry and exit point of the zones and impose fines.
- The three Secondary schools and the Primary School need to reconfigure car parking areas for staff and for drop-off/pick-up. This congestion is primarily due to their “customers” (parents) and their staff not having suitable parking or collection points. School intake appears to grow in size yearly and may require more teaching staff.
- Instead of Building 135no New homes on an already congested Church Road within a village with the strong probability of 2+ cars/ vehicles per home, why not have an extended parking/ drop off – pick up zone there!?

## Summary

We have taken many days/ evenings and spoken to the majority of Elm Close residents in great detail (and as many as possible in Chestnut close) – of which the majority are very much AGAINST the proposed **N.W.A.A.T** - some had no idea of this proposal!

We have obtained the feedback and signatures of those we have spoken to and in fact many think all you're going to do is force this issue further into Elm Close – 100metres, down the road/ round the corner, causing further obstructions to residents. Imposing residents with parking restrictions **and NOT actually addressing the root cause of the parking problem - which is the lack of infrastructure within the schools in particular drop-off/ pick-up area and adequate parking for school staff.**

**We have attached with this letter a scanned copy of those residents we have spoken with, which include their signatures to be submitted in good faith on the areas covered, in respect of the proposals.**