

Parking Problems in the Manor School area, Melksham

Residents in the area surrounding the Manor School in Melksham raised concerns about people parking in the surrounding streets in early 2010. The main complaints were about shoppers, parents and people working in the town centre using the streets for parking. This prompted the local Wiltshire Councillor, Steve Petty, to undertake a survey of residents' views in the following streets: Ruskin Avenue, Thackeray Crescent, Byron close, Milton Avenue with parts of Pembroke Road and Lambourne Crescent. 46 surveys were returned. See appendix for full comments from the survey.

Responses to the questionnaire:

- 91% feel there is a parking problem in the area.
- 73% feel the problem is caused by the proximity of the school and dropping off students.
- 85% feel the problem is caused by The Town Centre and parking by workers or shoppers.
- 41% feel the problem is caused by the residents.
- 50% would like to have more parking restrictions such as yellow lines.
- 88% support creating residents parking zones.
- 88% feel they shouldn't have to pay for a parking permit if zones were introduced.
- 50% would attend a meeting if organised.

Recommendation:

Having listened to the views of the residents in the area surrounding the Manor School, the Melksham area board recommends to the Cabinet of Wiltshire Council that this area is prioritised for a residents parking scheme.

Appendix A: Full comments received from residents' survey

Not addressed

- If the parking bays were made as suggested years ago there would be less of a problem with parking. Our children always get told off by residents when they play on the grass anyway.
- Allocated parking for residents. Designated bays to enable maximum use of space.
- I am no longer a driver. Nearby garages due to demolition. Where are cars going?
- Ruskin Avenue is the main problem.
- Parking should be for residents only in this area.
- Other people from the other side of town come and park when they please and visit people in the flats and go home with drugs in their pockets.
- It's the people who go to work in the town that causes the problem, I see them park around Thackeray Crescent then walk into town every morning. I don't know what to suggest to stop this. The residents have their own parking places.
- Perhaps a limit on time. Traffic warden walking around as quite a few cars park here with no valid tax. Yellow line on the corners of Ruskin Avenue as vision is blocked when leaving Thackeray. Yellow lines on the hill.

Thackeray Crescent

- There are also problems driving along Ruskin Avenue due to parked cars in School hours & narrow roads.
- Housing society advised several residents that deal was being made with highways to widen road and give us the bays. Road was widened but no sign of residents parking only. I previously raised the parking issue with a councillor many years ago & was promised a response to this but never heard anything back. I also asked verification over claims that a councillor had advised people to park free in residential streets but again no response.
- Parking restricts access to emergency vehicles at times too.
- Reference paying for parking permits – if there is no alternative to this then we feel it should only be a small fee as we already pay full council tax (rates) and have bought our house. We feel that we should have ownership of the parking spaces centrally in Thackeray Crescent. It is very strange that we don't as there are exactly 16 spaces for 16 houses & this should be in my deeds.
- At least making the 16 parking bays into residents and tenants parking only thank you. Parking along Ruskin Avenue (The Manor School) restrict parking time so no all-day parking.
- Yes if the council will arrange drop kerbs for my property I will do my drive. This will solve the problem of me coming home and finding I cannot park either outside my property or in a parking bay.
- We don't want to loose the green area with the trees.

Ruskin Avenue

- Am disabled & parking outside of front door. Queens Street has a disabled bay. I have severe heart problems & G.O.P.D & it is a long way to walk 3 bungalows away.
- To have a car park inside the school gates instead of parking close to the school. Perhaps a school bus. There seems to be a lot of parents picking and dropping off their children. IT IS VERY BUSY!! And blocks up the road.
- Residents of Union Street park here.

Milton Avenue

- As we have double yellow lines outside my home and this has made no difference whatsoever and have come home to find on, 2 separate occasions, cars parked on my drive that belong to parents at the school. We feel that something must be done BUT Not at the cost of my own family. This is a residential area which means families. NOT A FREE FOR ALL for the rude people who think it is their right to park here as they pay road tax.
- There is an area of grass that could be put down to parking like they have done in Sangster Avenue.
- Drop Kerbs to be done by the council as they do on newer properties being built at a cost to the council not as a cost to the residents.
- We had to pay privately to have the front garden turned into parking for 3 cars. My daughter is a disabled driver & in a wheelchair. It was the only way to ensure we could all park when we came home from work. Maybe people should be given drives & not have to pay as all new houses have free parking.
- Create where possible parking by side of dwellings and where it is not possible use grass frontages for residential parking.v Put yellow lines on corners of the street or near junctions.
- Parking outside Manor School is terrible despite yellow lines. Cars are still parked on them. Police present for a few days and then nothing.

Lambourne Crescent

- Answer might well be different if I lived where my mother is in Thackeray Crescent. We get a little overflow parking from the school. Our biggest problem is remembering not to go past the school at the wrong time. Policies that try to reduce car use by not making provision for staff to park on site are ridiculously unrealistic. We want the best teachers and assistants, not just people who live close enough to walk. The suggestion of a special rate for staff in the Lowbourne Car Park should have been considered more favourably.
- More yellow lines will encourage parking around Lambourne Crescent instead of just the middle road.
- Limit number of vehicles per household. Stop commercial vehicles le minibuses/vans using Lambourne Crescent especially Leszan minibuses – if his yard isn't big enough to store his minibuses then revoke his licence.

Pembroke Road

- Problem is caused at school time.
- During school time parking on the Ruskin Avenue area causes big problems for emergency vehicles and as this area has a lot of elderly people this could/ does cause delays in help arriving. Ruskin Avenue is very narrow and cars park all day on the left hand side.

Byron Close

- Restrict access through Stratton's Walk. Shoppers and workers would be less likely to park here? Permit systems are effective if managed well, however this would be another revenue generator for the council. Free permit on application is the only solution.
- Introduce wheel clamping for non residents parking or free permits for residents & pay & display at a high price for anyone else.