



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting to discuss Parking in Chipping Sodbury High Street Wednesday 13th July 2022, held in The Town Hall, Chipping Sodbury at 19:00 hrs

Present:

27 Members of the public

Councillors: J Ball (Chairman), C Hays, B Allen, P Rumney, A Williams

Town Clerk: Cate Davidson & Admin Assistant: Lucy Shilcock

1. Welcome and Overview

Cllr J Ball opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and provided an overview of the reasons the meeting had been called:

- Concerns had been raised about cars driving on the pavement on the High Street between the clocktower and Penny Farthings Gift Shop. Cars park 2 deep, one behind another which results in the cars in the row closest to the buildings needing to drive up onto the path (which is frequently used by pedestrians) to get out;
- A proposal was received to put bollards in along with marked parking bays which would result in cars parking single file and in designated spaces – thus removing the need for cars to go on the pavement (and significantly reducing the risk of potential harm to pedestrians);
- The marked bays would ensure that spaces were used desirably, to maximise the space available and would only result in the loss of 4 parking spaces overall.

2. Comments Received and Discussion

The following comments were received from members of the public in attendance:

- Discussions took place around who was parking on the High Street – was it people who work in the town, or residents, or visitors. It was felt anecdotally that it was people who work in the town and whether this then had a negative impact on visitors who then struggled to obtain parking;
- One member of the public noted that Bluebird Care employees take up a number of spaces when they have a dedicated car park of at least 8 spaces located across the road (behind MADD Sandwich Company);
- It was also suggested that Robert & Co have a potential 3 or 4 spaces at the rear of their property which could be used for their staff / customers;
- One resident explained that the area to the front of their property shows on their deeds as being within their ownership. Cllr Ball explained that home/business owners and the Town Council should work together as public safety was paramount;
- Comments were received about the tables outside Amigos Restaurant and The Old Bank taking up parking spaces, however these were addressed by the owner of Amigos who explained a license had been acquired through the formal channels for the tables to be in place until September;
- A comment was received about the lack of designated disabled parking spaces on the High Street / Broad Street;



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- It was reported that Tily's/ the Old Betting Shop is being developed into offices and there is land behind that which could be suitable for parking (either as part of the development or other);
- The use of white lines to mark parking bays was discussed with some residents saying they would prefer studs to be used or a more muted colour like grey if possible. It was however also felt that white lines would fade quite quickly;
- Enforcement (and current lack of enforcement) was discussed. The use of parking permits for residents was also discussed but it was felt this was moot without proper enforcement;
- Discussions took place as to whether there was anything which could be done to better publicise the availability of long stay free parking at the lower Waitrose carpark – it was mentioned signage would be helpful (which is actually already in existence);
- It was also discussed whether anything could be done to encourage workers to park at The Ridings and walk to the High Street but it was felt that for most people this was too far to be convenient;
- It was suggested that volunteers could conduct a survey to find out who was parking where and for what purposes – this would take a lot of time and organisation but could be considered in the future if needed.

3. Next Steps

The following actions were agreed:

- Sodbury Town Council to approach local stakeholders who appear to have parking spaces (to include Bluebird Care, Tily's, Robert & Co., Conservative Club) to find out whether they can be utilised more effectively to ease demand and congestion on the High Street;
- Cllr Ball will begin the process of engaging with residents who live within the area the proposed bollards are suggested, with a view to gaining their support before the proposals can be progressed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting at 8.10pm