

Cummings Street Car Park

Investigation, Consultation Results, Conclusions and
Recommendations



Report by Ian Butler
Senior Engineer
Traffic & Transportation Projects Group

Project Brief

The project brief was provided by the Transportation Group in conjunction with the Normanton Neighbourhood Manager. Essentially it consisted of the following requirements.

- Investigate the feasibility of improving access to the car park on Cummings Street, by opening its junction with Lowerdale Road
- Report on identified issues and costing for potential options for solutions

This report has been brought together through a combination of site observations, local knowledge, historic and anecdotal information and consultation with local people.

Background

Cummings Street car park was created a number of years ago to provide a small amount of parking for people visiting the nearby shops around the southern end of Normanton Road. There is no charge to use this car park.

Subsequently, in an attempt to control inappropriate through traffic, the junction of Cummings Street and Lowerdale Road was closed off and access to this car park was now via Lyndhurst Street. (See plan appendix one)

Investigations/observations

The concerns expressed were that a large amount of irregular and illegal parking goes on by people who are visiting the shops in the vicinity. This leads to congestion and road safety issues for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

This car park is underused by shoppers and is used more by residents of Cummings Street. This is likely to be because of the protracted access and egress arrangements. Other car parks in the area such as the private one owned by Pak Foods and the public one off of Pear Tree Road were, however, very well used. In fact the public car park off Pear Tree Road appears to suffer from long stay abuse which only serves to exacerbate the situation.

There is anecdotal evidence that the area close to the junction in question suffers from a high level of anti-social behaviour, of various type which deters people from leaving vehicles in the car park.

Proposed Options

Historically the junction of Lowerdale Road and Cummings Street was closed as a method of addressing a “rat running” problem that existed. Vehicles

found it a convenient way of avoiding the queues on Normanton Road. It was important that the options put forward did not encourage this inappropriate through traffic to return.

Lyndhurst Street is currently a one way, away from Normanton Road and Chestnut Avenue is one way towards Normanton Road. This in itself helps to reduce through traffic if the junction is re-opened.

Options one, two and three are essentially very similar in nature, however options one and two seek to completely remove through traffic by making Cummings Street two-way from Lowerdale Road to the Car Park and then one way beyond. Option three allows two-way traffic over the entire length of Cummings Street. Option four was simply to do nothing.

Option two gives the least advantage to through traffic and also provides the least amount of deviation required by residents of Cummings Street.

Another consideration to bear in mind is that options, one, two and three will all require the removal of the three trees at the junction of Lowerdale Road and Cummings Street and the relocation of some street furniture.

Consultation

A consultation leaflet was distributed to local ward members and to every property on Cummings Street, Lyndhurst Street and Chestnut Avenue as these residents would be the most affected by the proposals. Residents were given the opportunity to comment on the four options. A copy of the leaflet is attached to this report as appendix two.

In total 125 leaflets were delivered by hand and marked to allow a detailed analysis from each of the three streets.

Of the 26 leaflets that were returned the following results were obtained:

Option	Number of Votes
1	12
2	1
3	1
4	10
Other suggestion	2

A more detailed analysis of the results is shown in appendix three.

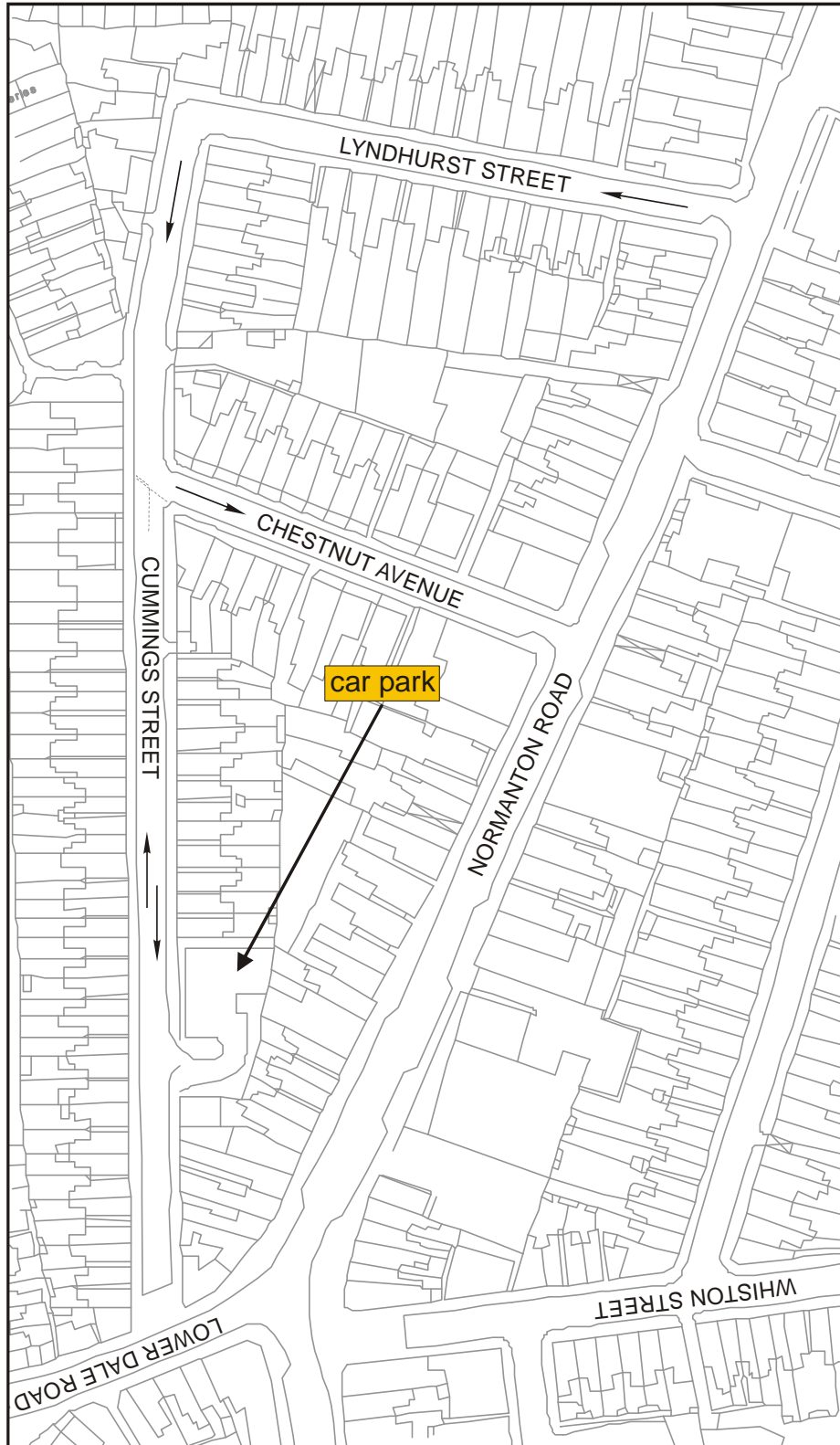
Conclusion/Recommendation

As can be seen from the results of the consultation there is a very even split between option one and option four. After consideration of all the factors involved here it is felt that, whilst opening up the junction with Lowerdale Road would encourage a slight increase in use of the car park it would not generate

sufficient usage to make any appreciable difference to parking problems around the area. It is the view of the author that, as the public opinion is so evenly divided; there is no clear mandate to implement option one and therefore in this instance option four, to do nothing, is the recommended course of action.

Appendix one

Plan of area around Cummings Street Car Park



Appendix three

Cummings Street

House Number	Preferred Option	Comments
7	4	
8	other	The only way to keep the traffic flowing is to close that PAK shop down it's nothing but a nuisance. It holds all the traffic up with it's small car park and big deliveries in the day time. When the shop is there are no problems with the traffic. It's in the wrong place. I think you know that already.
24	1	Although we agree with opening the Lowerdale/Cummings St jct we have our concerns with Cummings Street becoming very busy therefore we suggest opening society place jct to link with Cumming Street so half the traffic has another option to choose from
28	4	No need to open this street for more traffic - it is very dangerous for young children. No-No-Not at all for open this way. (Street exit)
30	4	
32	4	
33	1	Something needs to be done to prevent idiot drivers parking right out the entrance of Lyndhurst Street outside the public house there have been occasions where drivers in small vehicles have struggled + had to get on the pavement to get onto Lyndhurst St. This also causes problems for large emergency vehicles - re assess. please see option 1
40	1	
45	1	
75	1	
79	4	I live in 79 Cummings St and I have been living here since 1976. Since this car park has built no body use this car park. Shoppers and shopkeeper always park in the street and no body ever use this car park and in my opinion if you open Cummings St from the bottom all the shoppers going to park in the streets and we will not get space to park our own cars. therefore I am against this plan.
85	4	I would consider option 2 if on street parking was only for residents. At the moment I find it difficult to find car parking and with what is proposed I think this will be almost impossible. Please can you let me know the results of this survey on k.soanes@carersfederation.co.uk
89	1	Where the paved area is at the bottom is opened needs to have double yellow lines otherwise the chip shop will just park on all the spaces outside our houses as they have 3-4 cars parked in our street and do it as their own car park. CCTV also needs to be put in the car park to encourage cars to use it
91	1	The car park is just a tip for rubbish so if there's cars parked there it might be better. Any car parked there is gutted and broken into. Yes open up the road and see what happens
97	4	Option 1, 2 and 3 will create a rat run for traffic avoiding

		Normanton Road it will by pass traffic lights and make Cummings St dangerous. Cars have never used the car park and motorists will park in the street. There will be loud music played in cars on the street at all hours - late night diners will park in the street disturbing residents. We fought hard to get the street closed off . A return to the old pre closed street days will be a disaster. See attached notes.
101	4	Leave Cummings Street the same as it is. It looks nice with the trees. Its nice to hear the birds in the morning.

Chestnut Avenue

House Number	Preferred Option	Comments
11	1	
17	4	
20	1	This corner is just a drugs hideout. Close the chip shop on the corner of Lowerdale Rd, they hand out the drugs in chip cartons, just go to the back door in Cummings Street. I live here for the last 10 years and the amount of money that is collected every week is unbelievable and the car park is used as a tip. get the bins off the streets. I told the police about the drugs what they said "oh we heard about it but do nothing about it."
24	1	I would also like to see Chestnut Avenue closed to traffic at Normanton Road end, in addition to option 1. This will deter people from using Chestnut Ave as a car park and encourage them to go to the Cummings Street car park.
26	other	Close Chestnut Avenue/Normanton Road. One way traffic from Cummings/Lyndhurst St to Car Park, 2 way from Lowerdale to Car Park with at least 8 - 15 speed bumps Lyndhurst Street, Cummings Street all the way. Cameras in the surrounding area car park, Cummings street, chestnut avenue. Cummings St . Society Place pathway.
28	2	I'm glad you have come up with such a proposal which will help residents to avoid all the traffic on Normanton Road which will save a lot of time and energy

Lyndhurst Street

House Number	Preferred Option	Comments
10	1	
11	3	
14	4	Is not good idea to option 1-2-3. Still people may be need used more the bus. It's the better thing not too much traffic, not too much pollution. Not killed any more tree.
24	1	

Total scores for all streets

Preferred option	Number of votes
Option 1	12
Option 2	1
Option 3	1
Option 4	10
Other	2

Total number of responses = 26 approx 20% return