



Parking on Oakover Drive, Allestree

- 1.1 A petition signed by 362 residents and visitors to the Allestree area has been received. In a heading to the petition the concerns refer to parked vehicles on Oakover Drive between Birchover Way and Beeley Close and are represented here:
- a. Double parking occurs every day on this stretch of road causing problems for traffic using the route being unable to pass safely.
 - b. Parked vehicles obstruct the visibility of residents exiting onto the road. This raises the danger of an accident occurring between them and passing traffic.
 - c. Danger also arises to pedestrians, especially children, who cannot be seen crossing the road behind parked vehicles, risking possible death or injury.
 - d. Residents and their visitors are also often unable to access their driveways.

In a letter submitted with the petition the Lead Petitioner has suggested a 'No Waiting' restriction from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday, on the one side of the street.

- 1.2 Drivers park on Oakover Drive when visiting the Park Farm Shopping Centre on Birchover Way and there is some longer-term parking in the Allestree area, by students attending Derby University.
- 1.3 It is understandable that residents feel concerned, and even annoyed, by the intrusion of non-residential parking in an entirely residential street. In streets where residents have no off-street parking facilities, their concern is often generated by the reduction in parking opportunities. In streets such as Oakover Drive, where virtually all properties have parking facilities and residents and their visitors contribute little to on-street parking, the effects of non-residential parking stand out in stark relief. Having said this, the legislation surrounding traffic regulation is very clear in that parking restrictions can only be considered where safety is unduly compromised or traffic flow is significantly affected.
- 1.4 A "No Waiting at Any Time" restriction prevents parking on both sides of Oakover Drive for a distance of 38m from its junction with Birchover Way. This enables vehicles to safely enter the street and then enjoy a good view of oncoming traffic. The fact that most properties have driveways also provides gaps in the parking that occurs.

- 1.5 Despite the fact that some parents use Oakover Drive to transport their children to school, the street is still relatively lightly trafficked and it is considered that while the parking does prevent the passage of two-way traffic, this does not contribute a hazard and is a situation that can be negotiated safely by all providing usual caution is exercised. Further, the parking occurs in a relatively short length of road and it is considered that there are a number of safe places where pedestrians could cross the street without the need for crossing between parked vehicles. Examination of Derbyshire Constabulary's statistics shows that there have been no reported injury accidents during the last three years where the parking occurs. This tends to support the view that road safety is not compromised.
- 1.6 It is acknowledged that parked vehicles will restrict residents' views as they emerge from their driveway. This situation is common place in many parts of the city and while road users in this situation need to exercise caution, it is not considered that this creates an undue hazard. Unfortunately, it is also acknowledged that some individuals will, on occasion, park such that they obstruct a private driveway. This can constitute an offence, irrespective of whether parking restrictions are in force and the Police have exclusive power to take action against such offenders.
- 1.7 Where residents are concerned that drivers regularly park across a dropped kerb access they can request a Protective Entrance Marking that will highlight the extent of the access to other drivers. There is a charge for these markings of £60. If residents would like more information on protective entrance markings they can discuss the matter further by contacting a member of the Traffic Management Team on 01332 715031.
- 1.8 Derby City Council and Derby University continue to work together to encourage students to use alternative forms of transport to the private car. The University has implemented a Travel Plan and appointed a Travel Plan Manager.

PROPOSED ACTION

- 2.1 For the reasons outlined in the report that the request for a waiting restriction be turned down. The situation will be kept under review by Officers.

For more information contact: Tara Nield 01332 715056 e-mail tara.neild@derby.gov.uk Background papers: None. List of appendices: None.
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