



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 3
8 January 2007

Report of the Cabinet Member, Planning and Transportation

Holmes Street – Request to improve parking and road safety

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 Receipt of a petition requesting investigation into the parking situation and road safety on Holmes Street was reported to Area Panel 3 on 20 September 2006. It contains 21 signatures and reads as follows:

'I write with regard to parking and road safety on and around Holmes Street area of Derby. The cars park on both side of the road (Holmes Street) and one of the main concerns is that if an ambulance or fire engine was needed, they would struggle to get access and there is only room for one car – just. On many occasions cars meet face on and there is never room for them to pass, one always has to give way and reverse.

There is also a lot of children and old people living in the area crossing the roads are very hazardous you just cannot see clearly.

This is not always due to just residents parking, we get lots of cars parking while the owners are visiting shops on Normanton Road, these cars/owners do not seem to care as long as they have a gap to leave their car in.'

- 1.2 Holmes Street is a residential street located in close proximity to the busy Normanton District Centre. It is typical of most streets within this densely populated area, featuring terraced housing with little or no off street parking. Waiting restrictions are in place at both ends of Holmes Street to prohibit motorists from parking too near to the junctions. The remainder of the street is unrestricted. No injury accidents have been reported here in the last ten years.
- 1.3 A large proportion of residents throughout this area have no alternative but to rely on the public highway to park their vehicles. With a growing number of households owning multiple vehicles, the problem is further aggravated. Consequently, it is not unusual for parking to take place on both sides of the street to accommodate these vehicles.
- 1.4 Since receiving this petition, the Emergency Services have been consulted to obtain their views. Only the Fire Service responded and a site survey has since taken place with them. The Fire Service consider that, providing vehicles park sensibly and respect the junction protection on the corners, a fire engine should be able to enter and drive through the street with little difficulty.

- 1.5 The Fire Service have some advisory posters which they intend to put up in the area within the next few weeks. The posters reinforce the need to park responsibly to ensure that a fire engine is able gain access into the street swiftly in the event of an emergency.
- 1.6 With regard to the issue of cars meeting 'face on', this scenario is typical of streets where on street parking takes place on both sides. The only realistic way to deal with this situation would be to remove parking from one side. An option that could be considered is the use of double yellow lines to prohibit parking at any time.
- 1.7 Clearly a reduction in on street parking spaces would mean that a number of vehicles presently parking on this street would need to find alternative parking, and this would include residents as well. Experience has shown that the introduction of waiting restrictions usually displaces parking to other nearby locations. In this area, it is likely to displace to other nearby streets also experiencing similar parking pressures. Bearing this in mind it would not be beneficial to reduce the level of parking here, as no suitable alternative is available and this would prove overly restrictive for the residents themselves.
- 1.8 Due to its proximity to Normanton Road, it is likely that some parking from the district centre could take place on Holmes Street. However, it is not considered that this is a significant amount. As Area Panel will be aware, improvements for the Normanton Road area are being investigated and it is possible that additional parking spaces may be secured through these improvements. Hopefully, this will help to alleviate some of the parking problems experienced on Holmes Street and other similar residential streets in this area.

ACTION

- 2.1 The Area Panel supports the proposed action from the Fire Service to reinforce the need to park responsibly.
- 2.2 That the Area Panel agrees that no further direct action is taken at present, but acknowledges the need for additional parking within the Normanton District Centre, and notes that this issue has been raised for investigation within the Normanton Road area study.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	None