



*Fabian Richter, Conservative Parliamentary candidate for Bath
Pitt House, 20 Crescent Lane, Bath BA1 2PX
Telephone: 01225-338555; e-mail: fabianforbath@hotmail.co.uk*

Submission to Bath & North East Somerset Cabinet Meeting from Fabian Richter (26th January, 2009): RUH staff parking

Summary:

To request the implementation of a time-limited single yellow line for some of the roads surrounding the Royal United Hospital in Bath, especially Manor Park, Penn Lea Road, East Lea Road, South Lea Road.

Background and explanation:

A number of residents have approached me about the problem of on-street parking of RUH staff working at the hospital. This has resulted in insufficient parking spaces for residents in the surrounding roads, especially Manor Park, Penn Lea Road, East Lea Road, South Lea Road.

In order to obtain a more accurate and representative view of local residents, I sent out a survey all residents in those roads, asking them to state their preference for one of four options (results attached separately):

1. To maintain the status quo and have no parking restrictions in these streets.
2. To impose residents-only parking in these streets, in the full knowledge that this would result in residents being charged for parking permits.
3. To introduce a time-limited single yellow lines in these streets, e.g., from 10.00am to 3.00pm.
4. To make an alternative suggestion.

I received a total of 67 answers which represents a very high response rate to this kind of local survey. From those who responded, a clear majority (56%) preferred option 3 (time-limited yellow line), and another 6% advocated a variation on option 3 when ticking option 4 and explaining their alternative suggestion. Only 26% of residents preferred the status quo (no parking restrictions), and they were predominantly residents of Penn Lea Road.

From these survey results I conclude that a time-restricted single yellow line in at least some of the roads to the south of the RUH would find a lot of support from local residents, although the Council may wish to consult further with residents about the exact areas to be covered.

I have also spoken to a representative from the RUH's Facilities Department, Steve Goodchild, who told me that the hospital is unlikely to object to the imposition of single yellow lines in the aforementioned streets, as there are plans to expand the shuttle bus services from the Newbridge Park & Ride and other transport interchanges.

Residents can rightly expect to be able to park their own cars in close proximity to their homes, yet staff parking from the RUH often makes this difficult in the areas surrounding the hospital. There seems widespread public support for action from the Council, and little opposition to such a move on the part of the hospital. **I would therefore like to submit a proposal that Bath & North East Somerset Council takes immediate steps to prepare the introduction of a time-limited single yellow line in parts or all of Manor Park, Penn Lea Road, East Lea Road, South Lea Road, based on further consultation with local residents.**

Fabian Richter

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