



Getting Around Keynsham Transport Strategy

The parking strategy for Keynsham concludes that there is enough parking in the town. It ignores the fact that many side streets close to the commercial centre remain clogged all day by people parking in the narrow roads making it difficult for the residents to leave their properties for any reason and return. The drivers park on the pavements, on the grassy verges and extremely close to the residents driveways so that it is difficult to manoeuvre on to their driveways. The roads affected to my knowledge are Handel Road, Sherwood Close, Sherwood Road, Back Lane, Old vicarage Green, Cranmore Avenue, St Johns Court and Charlton Park Dapps hill Clements Road the many other narrow roads near Wellsway Academy that are congested by pupils and staff parking. The central town parking is mainly BANES office Staff and some are retail staff. I have also noted some regular parkers are Train users.

I know it is a fact that anyone can park on a public highway that has no restriction provided that the vehicle is taxed, MOTD and insured, however the population of our town has a well above average number of elderly residents and many are with mobility issues. They are unable to visit anyone in the areas where this all day parking occurs because of the distances they have to travel to get the place they wish to visit.

I think that the reason that we have higher percentage of elderly residents is that compared to the surrounding area it is flatter and easier to get around than our neighbours in the rest of BANES; this is why we have a great number of motorised mobility scooters and why it is so important to stop vehicles parking on the pavements and verges. I have seen mobility scooters travelling on the highway because of inconsiderate parking which is risky at best and a danger to others. The police do not have the manpower to manage the inconsiderate illegal parking.

The local community transport schemes also have difficulty in operating because of the parking both sides of narrow roads. Sometimes Dial a ride buses have to stop in the main highway in order to pick up members

outside their own homes. This is allowed under The Section 19 permit but the general public are unaware of this permission and often give the drivers verbal abuse and sometimes complain to the council in their ignorance.

BANES waste services have to use smaller vehicles to collect waste in these roads.

I have also witnessed delivery vehicles unable access the delivery address due to inconsiderate parking.

A lot of parking is inconsiderate to say the least. We will need more parking than ever in future years because we are going to experience the largest percentage increase in population in BANES. We will need a park and ride for Keynsham workers otherwise we will achieve gridlock sooner than we think, if we do not sort out the parking people will go somewhere else like Longwell Green where they can park and we will be left with a ghost town that no one visits.

Brian Simmons

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