

Rachel Willis Statement – 22 March 2018

Hi, I'm a resident of Freeview Road and I'm here to talk about the parking problem that we have.

Freeview Road is in Twerton, it runs parallel to the High Street and is sandwiched in between Twerton Park on one side and Bath City Farm on the other. There is no through route as it ends at Innox Park.

I moved to Freeview Road just over 2 years ago and parking has always been a bit of an issue, but one that is getting progressively worse. The way the road is designed there is only street parking on one side of the road, so if every household has a car we are already at capacity. Some households have two cars and there's a few work vans that live on our street which basically means the parking is full by about 6pm and after that people's only option is to park on the grass verges.

The verges themselves are getting into a really bad state, especially over the winter they are a churned up muddy mess. Cars have been known to get stuck on them when it has rained as the mud turns slick. It's also not that fun walking through the mud to get to your car in the morning.

So why can't people park elsewhere? Well they could, but because of where the road is you would have to walk a long way back to your house in the dark or use dark alleys which don't feel particularly safe, so for most people it's not a viable option.

This is not just a safety issue for car drivers either, it is also a problem for pedestrians, as it leads to cars regularly driving over pavements to get to and from parking spaces and using pavements as passing places.

I'm sure you have lots of people come and complain about parking on their roads, so what makes Freeview Road any different? Well, that it's a residents parking problem. This is not like roads by the hospital where there will always be more people wanting to park. Our parking problem is at evenings and weekends when all residents are at home. If we could create an extra 20 spaces, this would not be a problem anymore.

And that's the other thing that makes us different, there is an easy solution.

I carried out a parking survey of my neighbours last week and the response was swift and resounding. Within minutes of putting flyers through people's doors they were accosting me in the street and since then I've had a steady stream of returns through my door. Not one person wouldn't support turning some of the verges into parking spaces, either by properly widening the road and extending the existing parking bay area or putting concrete blocks in so that at least they aren't parking on the mud.

So I would ask the council to make a small investment to make parking on our road safe and available for everyone there.