

Councillor Michelle O'Doherty statement for Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

On behalf of some residents

Dear Cabinet Members

We are writing to you with respect to the parking situation around Chelsea Road.

Our family live on Park Road. The situation with respect to parking is currently untenable and is significantly negatively impacting the residents in this area.

In the absence of parking restrictions, the community is subject to non-residents parking in order to access the shops on Chelsea Road, in order to work at or attend the nearby hospital, in order to park for the day and head into the city centre to work or shop, and even on occasion to park for a number of weeks in order to catch the airport bus to Bristol airport.

In other words, the absence of parking restrictions has made the local area a car park. On numerous occasions we have been unable to find a parking space when returning from dropping off our daughter at school or when returning with her at the end of the school day. On occasion we have had to drive around the block for half an hour in order to find a space.

Additionally, those using the shops on Chelsea Road often park on double yellow lines and halfway up the pavement, causing jams and a generally dangerous environment for other road users and pedestrians alike.

There is a widely held view among ourselves, our neighbours, and those other residents we have had communications with that the quality of life of those living in the area is drastically reduced because of this situation. In light of the fact that a vote has already taken place in favour of bringing in parking restrictions, I implore the council to act with all haste to remedy this wholly unsatisfactory situation and implement parking restrictions and traffic flow measures to mitigate the worst of these effects as a matter of urgency.

I believe that such restrictions will actually benefit the Chelsea road businesses as it would free up spaces used by those who park to work or travel for potential patrons. I am happy for such restrictions to allow a limited number of hours of parking without a permit in order to avoid detrimental consequences to local businesses. I believe it is only a matter of time before there is an accident without measures being taken. I also believe that everyone should be able to park within a reasonable distance of their own home, especially the elderly and those with children. I believe a failure to act expeditiously will be a dereliction of the council's duty to this community.