

RPZ for The Firs, Combe Down, Bath BA2 5ED

The Firs is a small but proud one-way street of 21 terraced houses running by the Firs Field. We are actively developing our community but have zero control over our own parking, and desperately need the agency an RPZ will bring. (Dual-use bays throughout to provide non-permit holders with 1 or 2 hours parking, 8am-6pm, Monday-Friday or similar.)

The problem is protracted and many-sided:

- We have no driveways and are completely dependent on on-street parking, unlike neighbouring streets.
- We have senior citizens, the less able-bodied, those with young children, professionals leaving early and coming home late (health care workers included), tradesmen etc.
- Those who want to enjoy the Firs Field struggle to find an accessible spot.
- The same can be said of those visiting the surgery, school, shops and other amenities.
- We are a main, one-way exit point for the village, a prime spot for those spending the day here.
- The Firs is a convenient Park & Ride for the city, with the bus running past the top.
- We function as long-stay parking for Combe Down Garage, including when cars fail MOTs.
- Abandoned vehicles can sit here for a month before we can begin to take action.
- As a one-way street, when there is no available parking it is impossible to know where to go or requires multiple laps of a one-way system, adding to the frustration.
- This situation impacts residents daily and directly, creating very real tensions.

We have made our case to the Council for well over 8 years. However, changes in the Council, compounded by the pandemic and difficulties navigating the system, have created frustrating delays.

We are requesting an RPZ for BA2 5ED rather than a wider scheme. We understand the preference for a village-wide approach, but there are different needs in different parts. A wider effort will only compound problems and continue the impasse.

We have been told that single street schemes cannot be considered. However, they do exist, including Macaulay Buildings. They may not have connected streets, but we, too, are an island of sorts and a pinch-point. (There may be a way of linking The Firs to an existing RPZ.)

We recently refreshed our survey of households with 100% of respondents now in favour. That is a clear indicator of increasing and deepening concerns. (And that despite the costs attached, or, positively, the revenue for the Council).

In short, this mini-scheme will have a massive positive impact. Both for us and those using the Firs Field and other amenities, with minimal negative impact on others. We foresee mainly positive knock-on effects – including reduced emissions and vehicle numbers due to the pricing incentives.

Please consider and fast-track our request!