

Notes of meeting held on 7 July 2016 to discuss Monmouth Road parking and traffic issues

Present:

Dorchester Town Councillors – S. Hosford (Chairman of Planning and Environment Committee), M. Rennie (South Ward), C. Biggs (South Ward), G. Jones (South Ward), A. Canning (North Ward)
Dorset County Council Officers – S. Mepham (Dorset Highways' Community Highways Team Leader), J. Daniels ((Dorset Highway's Community Highway Officer for Dorchester)
J. Hartley – Monmouth Road resident and co-ordinator of initial residents' request for action
L. Dowell (Clerk to Dorchester Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee)

In Attendance: Approximately 100 residents from the Monmouth Road area

1. **Welcome**

Cllr Hosford welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the background to calling the meeting. Councillors and officers then introduced themselves.

Cllr Rennie spoke about the history of requests for parking improvements in the area being considered by the Town Council in the past. It appeared that more users of Brewery Square were impacting on parking in the area and she commented on school transport routes. She reported that there were 419 properties in the area being looked at for a possible residents' parking permit scheme.

Mr Hartley explained how he had become involved in co-ordinating residents' views on the parking problems in the area. He had tried to canvas as many people as possible although he was aware he had not contacted everyone. Of the 200 people he spoke to, 80% wanted improvements to be made to the parking and traffic situation. He had attended an initial meeting with councillors and officers and had presented them with the information he had gathered.

Mr Mepham outlined the process for requesting Traffic Regulation Orders (that included parking restrictions) and explained it was his and his officers' role to support the Town Council.

The Committee Clerk gave further details about DCC's ranking and prioritisation process across the county.

2. **Options**

- a) Double Yellow Lines on the junctions of South Court Avenue and Rothesay Road plus Ashley Road and Monmouth Road

The Chairman opened up the discussion to the local residents and a number of points were made:

- Further double yellow lines were needed on the junction of Culliford Road South and Monmouth Road – this view was generally supported;
- Enforcement of all parking restrictions was essential both by Dorset Police and DCC;
- Parking infringements should be reported through DorsetForYou for data collection and evidence purposes (a resident had also found the web site 'FixMyStreet' useful).

The Chairman summed up the discussion and stated that the provision of additional double yellow lines on the junctions was being requested mainly due to safety concerns and the DCC officers supported this.

On a show of hands, there was unanimous support from local residents for double yellow lines on the junctions of South Court Avenue and Rothesay Road / Ashley Road and Monmouth Road / Culliford Road South and Monmouth Road.

- b) Residents' parking permit scheme in Monmouth Road, Ashley Road, Alfred Road, Cromwell Road, Culliford Road South plus the section of Rothesay Road between Monmouth Road and South Court Avenue (with some limited short term parking)

The Chairman summarised the extent of the area that might be covered by a permit scheme and commented on its enforcement and cost issues.

Mr Mepham mentioned that any request for a permit scheme was likely to have to be considered alongside the work, currently being undertaken, looking a strategic plan for parking across Dorchester and the Chairman commented on the ongoing partnership working as part of the plan.

Points made by residents included:

- Dorchester South Station needed more parking provision;
- Some limited waiting for non residents might be appropriate within the scheme area;
- Once the Bitter End junction became 'live', this would have a further impact on parking in the area as would the expansion of Brewery Square;
- Many parking problems were caused by inconsiderate parking;
- Residents' parking permit schemes worked well in other parts of the Town and examples were given;
- A query was raised as to why a one-way system in Monmouth Road had been disregarded and Mr Daniels gave the technical explanation for this;
- Speeding traffic needed to be reported to Dorset Police possibly involving Dorset Road Safe;
- A couple of residents expressed their views against a permit scheme;
- A 20mph limit in Monmouth Road was proposed and DCC officers said this could be considered further;
- The parking needs of the businesses in Monmouth Road were pointed out.

On a show of hands, the majority of residents (approximately 10 against) supported a residents' parking permit scheme in Monmouth Road, Ashley Road, Alfred Road, Cromwell Road, Culliford Road South plus the section of Rothesay Road between Monmouth Road and South Court Avenue (with some limited short term parking).

Additionally, after it being raised during the discussion, on a show of hands the vast majority of residents also supported the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit in Monmouth Road.

3. **Summary and Action**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and said that the views of residents were very clear and their requests could now be forwarded to the Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee for further consideration, which would formally start off the request process for DCC. She also offered to keep residents up to date with what was happening, where this was possible.