

Statement by Cllr Nigel Brooks, BCP Ward Councillor Highcliffe & Walkford

Summertime Parking Restrictions – Chewton Farm Estate area, Highcliffe

As many of you know, I have been pressing BCP Council to introduce summertime vehicle parking restrictions as well as to sort out bad parking adjacent to a number of road junctions.

Petitions from residents in Montagu Road were submitted to both Christchurch Borough Council and BCP Council (the latter came into being in April 2019) with an urgent request to address the parking issues.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions in 2020 led to vast numbers of visitors in the summer months going to the coast in Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch as well as across the country. Highcliffe fared no better with many residential roads being inundated with vehicles where no parking restrictions exist.

The majority of roads to the west of Waterford Road do have summertime parking restrictions along the coastal fringe.

Residential roads east of Waterford Road, south of Lymington Road (A337) and the coast were particularly badly affected, and I received many representations from residents as well as photos.

Since July/August 2020 I have been constantly pressing BCP Council to introduce single yellow line summertime restrictions and I even received an Officer's indication this could be done.

At the end of September 2020 there was a change in the BCP Council administration to the Conservatives and a new Cabinet Member for Transportation and Sustainability, Cllr Mike Greene, was appointed.

Zonal Parking Scheme

A totally different approach has now been put forward as the only way to proceed. A 'Zonal Parking Scheme', where some 230 parking bays would be marked out and chargeable from just before Easter to the end of October. The daily rates and periods would not be dissimilar to the Waterford Road, 'Cliffhanger' public car park. **In many roads this would even replace existing yellow line summertime restrictions.**

The roads indicated to be in the 'Zone' – **Studley Close, Loraine Avenue, Abingdon Road, Mill Lane, Chewton Lodge, Montagu Road, Bute Drive, Waterford Road, Waterford Place, Stuart Road, Wortley Road, Wharncliffe Gardens, Wharncliffe Road, Beacon Drive** and **Oakleigh Way**. There would be no free parking in these roads during the period mentioned above.

The two roads with the highest number of bays would be **Wharncliffe Road, approx. 52**, and **Montagu Road, approx. 42**.

Residents who would want to park in the bays would have to pay the period parking fee or buy an annual permit at £60.00. Businesses would have to pay £200.00 pa.

Your Ward and Parish Councillors and Community leaders have totally rejected a 'Zonal Parking' approach.

- *There has been no prior consultation on this option and what is proposed.*
- *The plethora of permitted on-street parking areas/bays proposed is counterproductive to ensuring, as far as possible, visitors use the public car parks. There are adequate parking spaces (including an 'overflow' 'green area' in Wharncliffe Road) when it is exceptionally busy.*
- *The charging 'model' is totally wrong. All on street parking would need to be set substantially higher, at a single rate, well above the all-day summertime rate of the public car parks to deter on-street parking and encourage the use of the public car parks.*
- *It is not supporting residents, just putting more parked cars on residential roads.*
- *To enforce the payment of parking fees, over such a large area, and every day, will require a significant number and time commitment of Enforcement Officers. A lack of daily inspections of vehicles parked in chargeable bays will lead to avoidance of parking payments.*
- *The charging 'model', as presented, more-or-less penalises residents for periodically parking outside their homes by necessitating the purchase of a permit or a daily fee.*

- *Certain through-roads, where multiple bays have been proposed such as Wharncliffe Road and Montagu Road, would totally restrict the free movement of two-way traffic.*
- *Along the coastal fringe the lack of mobile phone transmitter masts means some networks will not connect, eliminating the BCP Council mobile phone App payments proposal. Only limited payment machines would be available.*

The Cabinet Member for Transportation and Sustainability, Cllr Mike Greene, has not been prepared to introduce the preferred summertime parking restrictions I put forward and has only offered a deferment to 2022.

In the circumstances, I have advised Cllr Mike Greene that a Zonal Parking scheme should not go ahead and again pressed BCP Council for summertime yellow line parking restrictions as well as sort out the problems of parking adjacent to junctions in time for this summer's influx of visitors.

Apologies for the length of this 'briefing', but it is important to understand the implications of what BCP Council have put forward.

You may wish to contact the following in respect of the foregoing –

Cllr Mike Greene, Cabinet Member for Transportation and Sustainability
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Cllr Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council - drew.mellor@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

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