

Design Consultation Results – Extension of Residents’ Parking Scheme, Edith Road, Faversham

Annex B

Response No.	Comments
1	<p>With reference to the proposed extension of Faversham residents parking scheme to Edith Road, I am writing to you with some concern as to how an informal consultation x 2 took place, and with the outcome that you propose.</p> <p>According to your letter dated 22nd September, you state that you received back 19 responses to an informal letter, with 9 supporting the scheme and 10 objecting. In my mind, the fact that the SJTB recommended the extension means that something has gone awry, and that obviously democratic rights in the borough of Faversham do not mean anything.</p> <p>From what I understand from the minutes of the SJTB meeting, Councillor ***** took it upon ***** to push the scheme through without formal consultation, and without speaking to, or properly consulting with the residents in person.</p> <p>The first informal consultation was held during covid restrictions, and we were given a letter with possible parking scheme on it. This was conducted by Councillor *****, and the letter clearly was implemented by the ***** party on headed notepaper. When it was collected, no one spoke to us or asked our opinion. It was just collected.</p> <p>The second letter was from yourselves, requiring us to send a letter or email back to yourselves.</p> <p>I feel that as we are a small road this scheme will impact very dramatically on the surrounding roads, that ALL roads should be included with the scheme, and FORMAL consultation should be undertaken by the council or SJTB .</p> <p>This is now possible since covid restrictions have been lifted. ALL residents should be contacted even if it takes several weeks , and this should be in person, either by an independent person or persons. The 2 houses on the Mall that will be impacted by the scheme did not, as far as I can determine, receive any of the letters issued by yourselves or Councillor *****.</p> <p>In 2010/2011, when we were approached to implement the scheme, all the surrounding roads were consulted. It was a proper formal consultation, and such should be considered before putting the parking permit scheme into operation in Edith Road.</p>

	<p>To allow the SJTB to impose something that is clearly not wanted by the majority of residents is going against democracy, and should be addressed thoroughly before implementing a scheme that is clearly not wanted.</p> <p>The proper democratic process has not followed, and subsequently the implementation of the residents' parking scheme extension into Edith Road needs to be halted pending an investigation and a review of the proposal.</p> <p>I would like to point out the possible use of double yellow lines in front of the garages, which have dropped curbs and such are covered by the highway code pavement parking.</p> <p>People from all over Faversham can still park here if they have a parking permit. Especially those who use the road to commute.</p> <p>Anyone can park from 16.00 until 10.00am without a permit, and in the middle of the day there is always parking. At 02.00am there is no parking available.</p> <p>It was never explained to any household that there is only 2 permits available to each household, and there are several that have 3 cars, due to children still living at home.</p> <p>There is actually not enough space for everyone who has a car and subsequently buys a permit to park within Edith Road.</p>
2	<p>I am responding to the letter dated 22/09/2021 and wish to express my full support for the proposed extension. However there is one point I wish to raise, as the owner of the garage of *****, I do not see the need for double yellow lines outside it. We do not use the garage for storing vehicles, and would rather the space was used to facilitate further parking on Edith road. If anything was to go there, it should be a white line adjacent to the dropped curb, rather than a double yellow line.</p>
3	<p>With reference to the above proposal I am concerned about the results of the informal consultation and the outcome that has been proposed. How is it that the informal poll taken on 22/09/21 showed a majority objecting and yet the proposal appears to be going ahead? How come nobody has called to ask us personally of our views? I realise this was not possible during lockdown but there was time afterwards. I am not convinced that Parking Permits will improve parking for Edith Road residents and just see it as a means for the council to gain more revenue.</p>

4	<p>I am writing in response to the Edith Rd consultation. Your ref: ER/CPZ/01.</p> <p>Our front door faces ***** but we have a garage entrance onto Edith Rd with a drop kerb and solid white line. We haven't previously been included in the consultation, receiving notification only this week.</p> <p>Having seen the plans, we would like to object to the conversion of the (keep clear) white line outside our back entrance into a double yellow line. The existing solid white line means we can choose to park inside or outside our gate while it still prevents others from blocking our access.</p> <p>We would prefer to keep the existing "keep clear" solid white line outside our brown gated entrance. But to be clear we definitely don't want it to be turned into a parking space where parked cars would block our garage access.</p>
5	<p>With reference to your letter of 22nd September:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="412 596 1973 699">1. Whilst accepting that the decision to proceed with the extension (of parking area B) despite a majority of local residents objecting is not your area of responsibility, nonetheless less the fundamental design flaw with the proposed design is the plan itself. The reasons are comprehensively explained in correspondence with Swale Council over the last 20 years.<li data-bbox="412 740 1917 842">2. Notwithstanding the above, the proposed double yellow lines across the private garage access areas with dropped kerbs are unnecessary, the issue of blocking access is adequately covered in the Highway Code rule 243 lines 9 & 10. Where a third party obstructs a property access, this can be appropriately dealt with.<li data-bbox="412 884 1957 948">3. The restriction of only 2 permits per household does not reflect the situation in many households where children living at home or self employed sole traders have more than 2 vehicles.<li data-bbox="412 989 1375 1021">4. There is no mention of how visitors' vehicles are permitted to park in the area.

6	<p>With reference to your letter dated 22 September 2021. It states that 9 supported the proposal and 10 objected and as the majority were against, I cannot understand why the proposal has been recommended. Surely, democratically, the majority vote should be upheld.</p> <p>The problem with parking is not during the day, it is evening and weekends. In the correspondence from _____, it states that the set times are usually 8am-6pm, in your letter it states 8.30am-5.30am. This is not acceptable and would be more appropriate if it were 8am-7pm, at least this would give paying residents a chance to return from work and park.</p> <p>Another problem is 2 hours free parking during the restricted times when in the letter from _____ it states only Permit holders or those displaying a one hour or all-day visitor Voucher would be allowed to park.</p> <p>Some residents seem to under the misapprehension that a parking permit would enable them to park outside their own property. The way this scheme has been laid out, they will be lucky if they are even able to park in Edith Road at all.</p> <p>It does seem that the residents were not given all the facts before being asked to vote. This surely makes the whole process unacceptable.</p>
7	<p>Delighted to hear this project is going ahead. The proposed layout looks great. My only comment would be that it would be worth speaking with the resident living at *****, Fav. He allows individuals to park in front of *** rear garage as thus it's a valuable parking space for local residents on Edith Road.</p>

8	<p>I am writing to let you know that I am in favour of the residents parking scheme for Edith Road Faversham, I am also happy with the proposed layout as it gives us the same amount of allocated parking as we have now, please do not mark out individual bays as this will reduce the overall number of parking allocation available.</p> <p>We're all pretty good at parking tight we we'll all fit in just perfectly.</p> <p>Please go ahead with the scheme and don't bow the loud voice of the NIMBYS, I thank you for going ahead despite the very small minority win on the informal consultation, courage always wins, bravo.</p>
9	<p>I write in response to your letter dated 22nd September, 2021.</p> <p>As a resident of Edith Road I TOTALLY agree with proposed plan to extend parking permits to include Edith Road.</p> <p>For too long now residents have been inconvenienced by inconsiderate motorists (mainly commuters) that use Edith Road as a 'car park' on a daily basis instead of paying the nominal £5 approx to park at the station, this equates to the cost of a pint of beer in the city.</p> <p>This has not been such an issue in the past year because of lockdown, although still a problem, but is becoming increasingly worse now that the country starts to get back to normal and will only get more of a problem as more housing is built !</p> <p>There are a number of younger families that live on Edith Road that are inconvenienced daily by the selfishness shown by non residents, these families are having to carry both shopping / buggies etc from some distance away to get to their homes as the infrastructure has been blocked.</p> <p>In my opinion confrontation will happen between residents / non residents soon unless this matter is resolved as a matter of urgency, it must also be taken into consideration that strict enforcement of the new parking restrictions must be applied otherwise it would be a waste to time.</p>
10	<p>Thank you for your recent letter outlining the proposed layout.</p> <p>Can I first thank you for progressing this scheme. It has been noticeable recently, how many more cars are now back parking in the road. I have just had someone park outside my house for a week - they weren't a neighbour! I can see the situation gradually worsening as people get back to work and resume shopping and travelling, post Covid.</p>

	<p>The proposed layout looks fine. I'm glad you are keeping the yellow lines short at the Mall end but wonder if they can be slightly shortened at the Kingsnorth end? I do understand it is presumably to enable vans / removal lorries to get around corners. Also, if not already planned, could the new yellow lines in front of garage entrances be kept to the minimum length so as to allow maximum room for the parking bays.</p> <p>I am happy with the hours being in line with the rest of the town.</p>
11	<p>My comments on the Parking Scheme that covers Edith road are as follows:</p> <p>I encourage the introduction of parking permits because I work in ***** and when I return home after a hard days work I cannot park near my house as there are other cars that are not my neighbours and I do not recognise.</p> <p>I have seen that people park on Edith road in the morning before I go to work and drivers pop a bag round their shoulders and start working down to the town. Are they going to catch a train or do they work in Faversham. I have seen people with formal clothing park on Edith road which suggests they are going to work for the day.</p> <p>This is why I think parking permits may work as the current system is open to abuse.</p>
12	<p>I am writing in response to the proposed extension to the town's parking scheme to include Edith Road.</p> <p>Both my wife and I wholeheartedly endorse this proposal as we believe it will considerably ease the parking difficulties that currently beset the road. So difficult is it to find a parking space on the street that we have been buying a parking permit for the last two years so that we can park on the Mall, as we often have to do. Finding a space to park on the street after 6pm is virtually impossible.</p> <p>The lack of restrictions on Edith Road means that anyone can use the street to park as long as they wish and this is continually exploited by commuters, teachers at the Abbey School and other people, who have all been observed by myself and others to use the street. For commuters, it enables them to avoid the charges that the station applies for parking and whilst I cannot blame them for taking advantage of this opportunity, I believe it unfairly detracts residents of the street, many of whom are elderly or have young families, which makes not being able to park on the street a considerable inconvenience.</p>

Whilst we appreciate that parking is an issue throughout the town I have lived in other streets that have the permit scheme and parking was nowhere near as bad as it is in Edith Road and surrounding streets that don't have the scheme. We are certain that the introduction of this scheme will be beneficial to the residents of the street and that the minimal cost of the permit (equivalent to around a £1 per week) is well worth it if it means that parking on the street becomes easier.

To those residents of the street who oppose the scheme I can only assume that it is on financial grounds and would suggest that they use Kingsnorth Road or Belmont Road instead. I can see no other reason for opposing this scheme unless you have more than two vehicles.

The proposals laid out in the letter sent by Swale Council seem reasonable to me. However, if individual bays are to be marked out I would ask how many spaces that will give the road. I would also question the wisdom of yellow lines outside the gates to 46 The Mall and the garage of 48 The Mall. No 46 already has lines marked up and a dropped curb to show it is an accessible entry point. The current owner often uses that space outside the gates to park (which is respected by users of the street) and to make that yellow lines would lose No 46 a space.

Similarly, I would argue that the garage to No 48 The Mall should be marked up in the same way as No 46 to allow the space to remain usable to that household.

Otherwise, I have no objections and would hope that the scheme will be implemented as soon as possible.