

Written Objections to Proposed Double Yellow Lines – South Road, Faversham

Following December 2014 JTB Meeting

Objection 1

We have been moved to write to you upon receipt of your proposal for the installation of double yellow lines on the north side of South Road, between the junctions of Lower Road and Tanners street.

Assessing the comments so far in Annex B document on Page 18 of the 'Public Document Pack' it is clear that those people who are supportive of the proposals to put yellow lines down the side of South Road from Tanners Street to Lower Road are in the fortunate position of having their own garages. However, we do not have a garage and so have no choice but to park our car outside our property. These objections take no account of this from a 'fairness' perspective.

It is, however, fair to say that the number of cars which park in this section of South Road has increased over the last year. The reason why people park their cars in this part of South Road, thus increasing the amount of parked cars in this area is because of the restrictions on parking further up South Road adjacent to the Alms Houses where there are restrictions on parking on one side of the road from 8.30am until 6.30pm. We believe that the way to solve the problem of congestion is to relax the parking restrictions further up South Road to allow residents to park their vehicles outside their properties from say 5pm until 10am- this would negate the need to put in place double yellow lines outside our property and allow buses and residents to be able to get out of their driveways far more easily and allow buses easier access in this part of South Road, notably because there would be fewer cars and vans concentrated in our part of South Road. We have noticed that cars from Tanners Street, where there is only permit parking, also park in this part of South Road and this further puts pressure on this section. We cannot see any reason why there is permit only parking in Tanners Street: is there a possibility that this could be lifted to relieve congestion in South Road?

We feel that the above suggestions provide a practical and fair solution to this problem as it benefits the 'whole community' of South Road including the supporters and opponents of the proposal to place yellow lines in this part of South Road.

I do hope that you decide to reconsider you proposal and don't allow the residents of this part of South Road to be penalised for past ill-considered decisions by the Council and the inconsiderate parking of car drivers from other parts of the Town.

Objection 2

Following on from my recent email communication regarding your proposal to put additional double yellow lines along parts of South Road. I feel it is important to ask whether you have made contact with residents in Nightingale Road, Cavour Road, Plantation Road and King's Road with regard to your proposal? I am quite sure they will be very interested to hear of your plans as clearly this will have a huge impact on already congested roads in the surrounding area. It is not just the residents in South Road with whom you have made contact that should be consulted, others in the area should be made aware of your proposal.

If the proposed double yellow lines go ahead, would you kindly give your suggestions as to where the current residents will be able to park?

Objection 3

I object to the proposed Order of extending the double yellow lines in South Road between Lower Road and Tanners Street as finding a parking space in this area is difficult enough as it is now.

Objection 4

I wish to object to extending the existing double yellow lines on the northwest side of South Road, Faversham, between the junctions of Lower Road and Tanners Street. As a resident of Nightingale Road I already live on a road that has double yellow lines on one side of the road, thus restricting parking opportunities to only one side of the road. As a result of this and the fact that Nightingale Road not any of its adjacent roads have residents parking restrictions the parking in the area is appalling.

The majority of the time there are no spaces available in Nightingale road or in the adjacent Cavour Road. This means that the next available road for parking is South Road. This area of South Road is also extremely full of parked cars. Limiting the available space still further will result in there being almost no available space within the vicinity of my house.

The Council's decision to have a limited amount of resident permit parking in Faversham will inevitably create empty spaces in the permit parking area and increase the pressure on the immediately surrounding areas, such as Nightingale Road and South Road.

It is, therefore, unreasonable to further compound the problem by reducing the available space.

ANNEX C

This will result in myself and other residents having to find spaces to park much further away from our houses. This will increase safety concerns for our and neighbours children who have to cross more roads getting to and from their parents cars. This decision has the potential to cause more road traffic accidents in the area.

I believe a more sensible way forward will be to introduce resident permit parking in the area.

Objection 5

I wish to strongly object to the proposals to extend the double yellow lines on the north side of South Road, Faversham, between the junctions of Lower Road and Tanners Street. This would penalise local residents in two ways:

- 1. There will be fewer parking spaces available for use by local residents and visitors;*
- 2. There will be an increase in the number of speeding vehicles in South Road.*

I can foresee no significant benefit from the proposed change.

I have lived [in the area] for the past 16 years, and in recent years it has become increasingly difficult to park locally. On weekend when there are visitors to the Shrine of St Jude, it becomes nigh-on impossible. Restricting the parking on South Road as proposed will make the situation much worse, and will also put more pressure on the parking situation in the surrounding area.

The states reason for the proposed change is that it will improve vehicle movements. I have not seen any significant difficulties arising with the flow of traffic in South Road as the number of parked cars has increased. I work from home, and tend to notice on the rare occasions when traffic does get backed-up. Sometimes there is congestion for a few minutes when the bins are emptied on a Monday morning. However, that could be easily relieved by sensible scheduling of the rubbish collection to a time other than during the morning commute.

Overall, I believe the effect of having cars parked on both sides of South Road between Tanners Street and Lower Road has actually been beneficial. There has long been a problem with vehicles speeding on South Road between Stone Street and Lower Road. Having vehicles parked on both sides of the road appears to have provided some degree of traffic calming, which has helped to reduce the average speed of vehicles, and the number of speeding vehicles. This serves to make the road safer and quieter, which can only be a good thing. Restricting parking as proposed will not only reduce parking options for local residents, it will effectively widen the road leading to an increase in average traffic speed, making the road noisier, and less safe for local residents, cyclists and pedestrians.

[further comments relating to consultation process]

Please do not introduce additional parking restrictions in South Road between Tanners Street and Lower Road, and please also improve the process for future consultations of this sort.

Objection 6

Further to my telephone call regarding the proposal to extend parking restrictions along Ospringe Road, I would like to register my formal objection to this proposal.

*My partner and I moved into Nightingale Road in September 2013. One of our initial concerns was the situation with parking in Nightingale Road itself, but as we were able to park 'close' to our house, e.g. Plantation Road or Ospringe Road, we did not consider it a reason not to purchase the property. Even then, I was concerned about ***** having to walk around the streets late at night as she sometimes doesn't get home until around 11pm. Regularly, she can spend literally 15 minutes driving round trying to find somewhere to park and 9 times out of 10, ends up parking along the stretch of Ospringe Road in question, as this is the only option. There have also been frequent occasions when we can't even park there and have to park on a single yellow line adjacent to the Alms houses, then having to move the car in the morning before the parking restrictions come into force. On at least two occasions, she has been spoken to by males, one of which was a quite verbally aggressive approach. This particular incident was on the corner of Ospringe Road and Nightingale Road, very close to home. I now insist she rings me when she eventually gets parked so I can go and meet her.*

Faversham is an old town and parking will always be at a premium, which we understood when we decided to move here but thought the beauty of the town was worth the couple of inconveniences we would encounter, parking being one of them. It must be frustrating for residents who live on the main road, that their access to their own driveway is visually restricted, but at least they have somewhere to park. One could argue that if those individual residents find the area inconvenient, they could always consider moving to a less congested part of town. There is no doubt that the situation with parking in the area has got worse over the last year. I think that this situation will only get more of an issue as I feel a lot of the vehicles parking in this part of town are commuters looking for free parking before walking to the railway station and Faversham seems to be attracting more commuters, which in itself, is a great thing for the town.

ANNEX C

There has been mention of inconvenience to the bus route, with buses getting blocked, but I must say that I have never seen a bus blocked. All vehicles have to give way to oncoming traffic along this section of road, including buses but this is commonplace in the town and one of the lovely things we have noticed about this is that drivers will stop and give way to others and always acknowledge others' politeness.

From the Council's point of view, I would have thought that any such change to the existing arrangements must form part of a more extensive scheme, a part of which should include any plans to offer alternative arrangements for parking for residents. Faversham is a beautiful old town and everything should be done to maintain its uniqueness.

Objection 7

I am writing to you in the hope that you will not extend the yellow lines along the north side of South Road between Tanner's Street and Lower Road in Faversham.

I live in one of three terraced houses that do not have a garage or driveway and neither do my neighbours. Although I don't have a car myself, the extension of the yellow lines will be most inconvenient for my family when they come to visit or pick me up.

I think that a better way of reducing the concentration of traffic in our part of South Road would be to reduce the no parking times further up the road where there are yellow lines. Then when people who live in the houses further up the road come home from work, they could park outside their own houses rather than outside ours and there would be a lot less parking on both sides of the road which causes difficulties for buses, etc. Better still, remove all the yellow lines, there seemed to be very little problem before they were introduced! Painting more yellow lines will just shunt the problem further down the road.

I would urge those that make decisions in the area of highways to come and look at South Road for themselves and perhaps then adopt a more joined up and considered approach to the problem rather than a knee-jerk one.

Objection 8

I am writing to object to the proposed plans to extend the double yellow lines on the northwest junction of Lower Road and Tanners Street.

ANNEX C

*I live at ** South Road, opposite the Almshouses, and there is already a single yellow line outside my house. As a result, I have to park 100-200m away in the stretch of road between Lower Road and Tanners Street.*

Parking is already very competitive here, and to further restrict parking without suggesting an acceptable nearby alternative will make ours, and our neighbours lives much more difficult, and make it difficult for those visiting us – particularly those that visit use on a daily basis.

I would be very happy if alternative parking became available and would be open to hearing about any suggestions you may propose to compensate us. Until that happens, please take this as an official objection to the extended double yellow lines proposed.

Objection 9

I am writing to object to the proposed plans to extend the double yellow lines on the northwest junction of Lower Road and Tanners Street.

I work on South Road opposite the Almshouses, which already has restricted parking. I therefore park in the stretch of road between Lower Road and Tanners Street.

There is little parking around this areas as it is and I would be disappointed if the currently available area was to be reduced.