

QUESTION FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC ASKED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL ON 23RD MAY, 2003.

Question from Mrs. Morgan, Hereford.

I want to know if there is an imminent review as to why the Council withdrew a stretch of road that has always been available to residents in the zone 3 area (between 1 Ledbury Road and Templar's Lane).

Having discussed this with Councillor Fleet and being reassured consideration would be given to returning this facility to local residents, the reverse has happened without consultation with anyone affected.

Additionally, all that is available to residents in the area is parking Monday to Friday between 11.00 pm and 4.00 pm, as anybody can park there for two hours at any time. Why has the Council not considered 24 hour parking for residents in conjunction with the visitors' permits?

Extract from letter to Mrs Morgan from the Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation)

I understand that waiting restrictions were imposed on this stretch of road many years ago because of problems with visibility for vehicles emerging from No 1 Ledbury Road. When this restriction was introduced the Council did consider extending the restrictions further to Central Avenue but this proposal was abandoned, except for protection around junctions, after objections from local residents.

You mention that a local Councillor had told you that consideration would be given to amending these waiting restrictions to return the facility to local residents but that "the reverse has happened without consultation with anyone affected". In fact, there has been no change to these restrictions and, given the past and more recent problems caused by parking on Ledbury Road, I understand that there is no proposal to revise the current restrictions. The officers involved have examined recent accident records in the area, which confirm that there has been one personal injury accident in the last five years close to Templar's Lane that was associated with a parked vehicle. In these circumstances, they would not recommend any relaxation of the existing parking restrictions.

You also ask that the Council should consider allowing residents to park at all times in the area. At present, the restrictions permit some parking in designated areas for a maximum of 2 hours between 9am and 6pm. In effect, this allows local residents to park between 4pm and 11am the next day without the need for the purchase of Residents Parking Permits. Alternatively a Residents Parking Permit allows 24 hour parking in these designated areas. These restrictions were imposed after consultation with local residents and a formal process of advertisement and objection. The overall scheme appears to have been effective for many years in achieving a compromise between providing some limited parking for local residents whilst preventing long-term parking by commuters/local workers. I do not believe that a change to this scheme would be justified for the foreseeable future and I am sure that many local residents would object if the Council was to propose the introduction of a permit only system as an alternative.