

Henleaze Neighbourhood Partnership Forum

Thursday, 2nd February 2017

Parking Issues in Westbury Park

1 The Issues

1.1 Many parts of Westbury Park have a chronic parking problem due to rising car ownership, the physical characteristics of the area (high density late Victorian / Edwardian housing) and the limited capacity of roads to meet the demand for off street parking. The problem is most pronounced at night with many roads fully parked up, leading to poor and dangerous parking and cars touring a wide area to find a space.

1.2 In recent years parking has also become a major problem for residents during the day, particularly in areas close to Redland Road and Westbury Park (road). Roads are parked up fully on most weekdays leading to the point where some residents are simply unable to find a space close to their home should they dare to venture out with their cars. This is a particular problem for families with young children and people who are less mobile.

1.3 The significant increase in the number of students who own cars has contributed to the problem in areas where a high percentage of the houses are sub divided. However, the major factor causing problems in recent years has been the large increase in commuters using roads in Westbury Park as a car park – the large movement of cars being quite a feature in the early morning as residents leave for work and commuters search occupy vacated spaces.

1.4 On street parking surveys carried out by Westbury Park Community Association in May and October 2014 provided sound statistical evidence concerning the scale of the parking problems faced by residents in much of Westbury Park.

1.5 These problems were reaching crisis point in parts of Westbury Park several years ago. The more recent (2015) extension of resident parking schemes in Redland and the parking restrictions introduced on the Downs (2016) have made matters worse.

2 Resident Parking Proposals in Westbury Park – A Brief History

2.1 Much of the Westbury Park area was offered a resident parking scheme in 2013 but this was opposed by the Community Association for a number of reasons - the detailed proposals put forward severely reduced the number of spaces on some roads that were already over parked, the consultation process was very poor and some parts of Westbury Park did see the need for a resident parking scheme (eg the Metford Road area). Further, at that time no scheme had been proposed for removing hundreds of all day parking spaces from the Downs.

2.2 In January 2015 Bristol City Council carried out a parking issues postal survey of residents in parts of Westbury Park. This was followed by the Council putting forward proposals in November 2015 to extend the Redland Parking Scheme to the Manor Park / Canowie Road area and the Cotham Road North Scheme to the Durdham Park area. At the same time the Council concluded that there was insufficient support for resident parking elsewhere in Westbury Park. This came as a surprise as the Community Association believed that residents living in the Blenheim Road, Etloe Road and Queen Victoria Road areas were very much in favour. Requests by the Community Association to obtain the detailed results from the postal survey were unsuccessful so we were not in a favourable position to challenge the Council's conclusions.

3 The Current Position

3.1 The Council are moving forward with a resident parking scheme for the Durdham Park and Manor Park areas (but not the scheme wanted by over 90% of residents in Manor Park). Nothing is happening or is planned in the remainder of Westbury Park despite increasing parking problems and the prospect that these will get even worse when the two new resident parking extension schemes become operational

4 Where Next ?

4.1 The Mayor has stated that he will only consider further resident parking schemes where they have the support of local residents.

4.2 With parking problems caused by commuter parking worsening and affecting more parts of Westbury Park for the reasons mentioned above it is likely that support for a resident parking scheme may now be greater than in January 2015 when the Council conducted their rather cursory postal survey. Establishing whether this is the case is the immediate challenge.

4.3 Given that the Council are unlikely to have the resources or will to carry out a new survey to ascertain resident's views the onus is almost certainly on local councillors, the two Neighbourhood Partnerships and the Community Association to take the initiative. One way forward might be to establish a small informal group aimed at obtaining the structured and representative views of resident and presenting these to the City Council.

4.4 Once a methodology has been agreed it should be possible to apply it in other areas (parts of Henleaze, Westbury on Trym and Stoke Bishop) also suffering commuter parking problems.

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Thursday, 19th January 2017