

APPENDIX 1 - FOR ADVICE

Applications for a disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay which met Kent County Council's assessment criteria, including redacted details of the feedback received during the informal consultation, location plans and Officers' comments/recommendations

FARNINGHAM: Oliver Crescent



INFORMAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

1. Objection

“I write to you to object to the proposed parking bay in Oliver Crescent.

The reasons being is that one of the neighbouring properties has a car parking area in front of the house, thus not being able to park in front of that house. Also, a resident of another neighbouring property has cones blocking off the section at the front of that house.

This means if this bay were to proceed, the whole block of houses, except one, will be sealed off for other residents, the parking is already problematic, and finding a space to park will be very difficult.”

2. Comment

“We don't object to the resident having a disabled parking bay, but we are having considerable trouble getting a space to park in this road.

People are blocking/saving spaces using cones, bins, motorbikes etc. just to save a space. After getting home after work the cars are parked right up to the top of the hill, which is dangerous as on a bend.

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Please can more spaces be made available, maybe on the green opposite our homes.”

3. Comment - Cllr P McGarvey (SDC and Farningham Parish Council)

“No objection from me as a District Councillor; and no objection from Farningham Parish Council (FPC) who met on 22nd December 2021.”

4. Comment - Cllr B Carroll (SDC)

“No objections from me.”

5. Comment - Cllr R Gough (KCC)

“No objection from me.”

OFFICERS' COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION

Applications for disabled persons (blue badge) parking bays (DPPBs) are often made because a disabled resident experiences problems parking on-street near their home, which due to limited mobility can reduce accessibility and social inclusion.

The applicant meets KCC's personal assessment criteria for a DPPB, so unless there are compelling reasons to do so, it would be difficult not to approve it, as this would be open to challenge for breaching the Equality Act.

It is therefore recommended that the application be approved, and an interim disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay be marked.

The issue of residents placing objects on the public highway to reserve parking spaces has been referred to KCC.

Although the green space referred to in Comment 2 is in the ownership of SDC, there are currently no plans to create parking spaces there.

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SEVENOAKS: Hillingdon Rise



INFORMAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

1. Objection

"I would like to object to the location of the proposed disabled persons parking bay at Hillingdon Rise for the following reason...

More and more households have more than two cars, and this is now causing severe parking issues on weekday evenings, and all weekend.

Parking at the top of Hillingdon Rise where the proposed disabled bay will go, has over that last year become so bad that drivers are now regularly parking on the pavements, this is causing reduced space for pedestrians and congestion on the road at the top end of Hillingdon Rise.

Another issue we now have is that residents of Nicolson Way had their road parking reduced a few years ago, this was due to the implementation of double yellow lines, all that did was force Nicolson Way residents to park in Hillingdon Rise, and that forced Hillingdon Rise residents to change their parking position and so forth... Reducing parking for any reason does not solve a problem, it just makes it someone else's problem.

So the proposal to have a disabled persons parking bay at the location proposed in the plans will cause even more parking problems at the top of the estate, this will force more drivers to park on the pavements, causing more congestion and more alarmingly

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more friction between residents, as some residents will deliberately park badly to save a space for the second car in the household, the space you have marked out can if drivers park correctly hold three cars, that is three spaces that will be lost in a location where parking is already a growing issue."

2. Objection

"Firstly, there has been an ongoing problem with parking recently, with most residents finding it hard to park. Adding to this issue is one in particular neighbour who has 4 cars parked outside, sometimes 5/6 when they have visitors, with these vehicles all parked on the street, it becomes a great problem, especially when we have 2 car parks with could be used for the over flow of vehicles. A courtesy letter would maybe be required for all residents to have their visitors park in the car parks provided. Or even each house hold having 1 designated parking space.

Secondarily, I'm unsure which neighbour would require a designated disabled space. But having said that, having this bay next to a steep bank and stairs wouldn't seem ideal, personally I think a disabled bay would be better positioned at either end of the slopes, this would give better and safer access to the foot path.

3. Comment - Cllr T Clayton (SDC)

"I don't think this will cause any problems, but is it in the best place to help the applicant? There is quite a steep bank - with steps - up from the location indicated to the houses between 79 and 89 Hillingdon Rise. Will the applicant be able to navigate the slope OK?"

4. Comment - Cllr E Purves (SDC)

"Seems fine to me."

5. Comment - Sevenoaks Town Council

"The Planning Committee (Working Party) met on 10th January 2022 via Zoom and expressed support for the application. Councillors acknowledged Cllr Clayton's previous (and subsequently, addressed) concern about the location and were fully supportive following your earlier confirmation that this is the preferred location chosen by the applicant."

OFFICERS' COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION

Applications for disabled persons (blue badge) parking bays (DPPBs) are often made because a disabled resident experiences problems parking on-street near their home, which due to limited mobility can reduce accessibility and social inclusion.

The applicant meets KCC's personal assessment criteria for a DPPB, so unless there are compelling reasons to do so, it would be difficult for the Board not to approve it, as this would be open to challenge for breaching the Equality Act.

The proposed location for the parking bay is the applicant's preferred option.

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It is therefore recommended that the application be approved, and an interim disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay be marked.