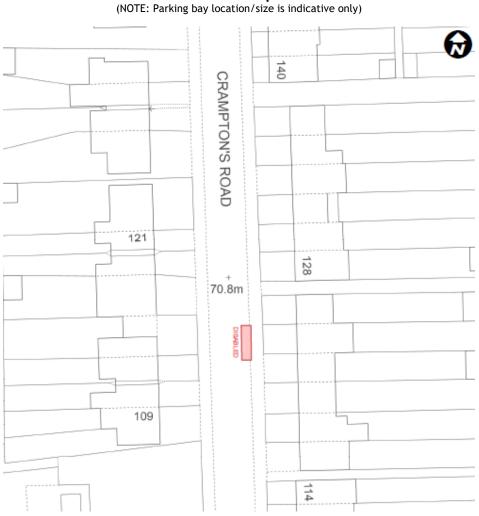
Applications for disabled persons parking bays which met Kent County Council's assessment criteria, including redacted details of the feedback received during the informal consultation, location plans and Officers' comments/recommendations



SEVENOAKS: Cramptons Road

INFORMAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

1. Comment - Sevenoaks Town Council

"Sevenoaks Town Council's support of the application and proposed placement of the bay, as resolved by the Planning Committee on 6th February 2023."

2. Comment - Cllr I Collins (SDC)

"I have no objection to the Disabled Parking Bay."

OFFICERS' COMMENTS

No representations were received during the informal consultation process, and hence an interim disabled persons parking bay can be marked, without the need for a decision from the Board.

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CROCKENHILL: Daltons Road

INFORMAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

1. Comment - Crockenhill Parish Council

"The Parish Council is supportive of the proposal to have a designated disabled bay, as parking is an issue for all drivers in this area. However, we do have some safety concerns that we feel we need to highlight to ensure that these have been properly considered.

It should be noted that access to a vehicle would be from one side only, as there are railings along a large stretch of this road which prevent doors on the kerbside from being opened. This means that the driver would be alighting into the path of any vehicles using Daltons Road (in either direction), including those turning from Tyler's Green Rd that may have limited visibility."

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2. Comment - Cllr R Waterton (SDC)

"I support this application for a disabled bay. Unfortunately, it is difficult to park for all the residents living here. Obviously, someone with a disability will find it more difficult."

3. Comment - Cllr R Gough (KCC)

"I am supportive of this application"

4. Representation - Local Resident

"I am writing to you in regards to the application you have received for a disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay in Daltons Road. We would like to oppose it.

Firstly the disabled parking space you are proposing is for a person that doesn't drive. They don't own a car and are not blue badge holders. I'm afraid to say they are elderly and hardly ever leave the house. We do see their children come to visit but again they aren't blue badge holders?

Secondly there are big concrete steps to get up to the road from our street. Our street is a level down from the road so it is hard to visualise how they will get up to the proposed blue badge parking bay. Unfortunately they fell over on the snow recently so are very unsteady on their feet. It would make much more sense for the proposed blue badge parking bay to be at street level on the corner of Daltons Road.

Thirdly, since we have lived here, parking has been a huge issue for us and our neighbours. Due to the field on the other side of the road, there is only one side of parking for all the houses on Daltons Road. This means it's lucky for us to find any parking space at all on a daily basis. Removing a space would cause even more of an issue and prevent us from parking outside our own houses.

Finally our road is the last village road before farms and countryside lanes. It is used mainly by tractors, agricultural lorries and cars wanting to cut through when the M25 is blocked. This means it would be difficult for a disabled person to get in and out of a car with the metal railing blocking the other side of the car.

We aren't against a blue badge parking bay but having it on Daltons Road is not the right decision. The disabled bay would be empty 99.9% of the time and is essentially serving as a private parking space for their visitors. We would advise you to come to visit and see for yourself."

OFFICERS' COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION

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

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In this case, the applicant meets KCC's personal assessment criteria for a parking bay, and owns/drives a vehicle, so unless there are compelling reasons to do so, it would be difficult for the Board not to approve the application, as this could be open to challenge for breaching the Equality Act.

There are parking restrictions near the applicant's home, which have limited where a parking bay could be provided.

However, the proposed location for the parking bay was selected in liaison with the applicant, and because parking currently takes place in this section of road, it is not envisaged that the provision of a bay there will cause any issues to other road users.

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

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INFORMAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

1. Comment - Seal Parish Council

"The Parish Council agreed that the proposal whilst we are in support of the disabled bay we ask that it is within the parking bay already there and doesn't encroach on double yellow lines around Zion Street."

2. Comment - Cllr R Hogarth (SDC)

"I recall there is concern about the parking on Zion Street but this spot should be OK."

3. Comment - Cllr J Thornton (SDC)

"I have no objections or comments to make."

4. Representation - Local Resident

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"We wholeheartedly support our neighbour having a disabled parking bay. However, we strongly object to the existing bay outside number 2 being extended on to the double yellow lines. Although, that parking bay is the best place for it.

It took us years to get the double yellows (working with the Parish Council and following two public consultations). They've improved safety for everyone (including our young children). The double yellows are on a tight junction with blind spots in every direction.

Prior to the double yellows our property was consistently damaged by vehicles squeezing through (avoiding parked cars on the junction). HGV's pass through and vehicles commonly speed.

There are no pavements and when cars are parked on the junction, pedestrians and residents are forced to walk around them which is dangerous.

May we respectfully ask the parking bay is not painted over double yellows for everyone's safety. The possible location on your plans show a significant encroachment over the double yellows (a few inches would be fine).

I understand that blue badge holder's are not allowed to park on double yellows near a junction yellows tor safety reasons."

OFFICERS' COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION

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

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

There are parking restrictions near the applicant's home, which have limited where a parking bay could be provided.

However, the proposed location for the parking bay was selected in liaison with the applicant, and utilises an existing unrestricted marked bay.

This bay is significantly shorter than the national minimum standard length for disabled persons parking bays (DPPBs), but in the short term, KCC are happy for this substandard parking bay to be converted into an interim DPPB, without the backing of a traffic regulation order.

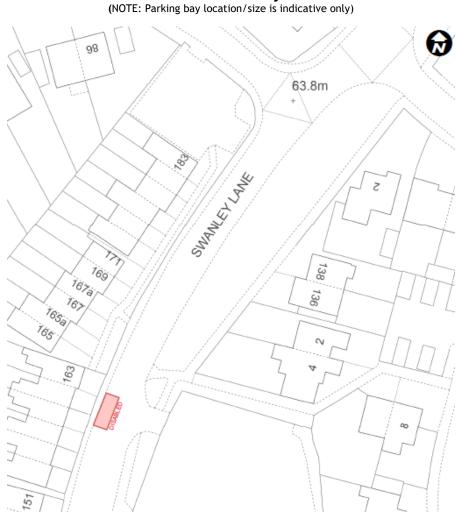
However, if the interim parking bay was to become regularly abused by non-blue badge holders after its introduction, consideration would then be given to a traffic

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regulation order, at which point an alternative location for a minimum standard length DPPB would have to be found, possibly in one of the larger parking bays a short distance away from the applicant's home, should KCC did not support shortening the adjacent double yellow lines to enable the small parking bay to be extended.

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

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SWANLEY: Swanley Lane

INFORMAL CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

1. Comment - Swanley Town Council

"Following the Development Control meeting this evening, Swanley Town Council Councillors are in agreement that this disabled parking bay would be beneficial to the area."

2. Comment - Cllr P Cole (KCC)

"I am aware of this location and its proximity to the crest of a bend along this busy road and after consideration of all the facts, I have no objection to the provision of such a bay at that location."

3. Representation - Local Resident

"We would like to politely put forward a few comments that we would like to be considered before the disabled bay is installed.

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Due to ongoing parking issues and already a lack of space outside our houses, which we believe causes tension with neighbours we don't agree that the disabled parking bay is a great idea. We also believe the house in question has two personal cars plus a van. When there is already very limited parking we think it's unfair that one of the houses out of the 12 houses along this part of the lane is allowed an allocated parking space.

Which brings me onto wider parking issues along Swanley Lane, since we moved to Swanley Lane, we have always had two cars due to needing them at different times of the day. It has become a regular occurrence that we can only get one space on the lane and are having to park our other car on Woodgers Grove which doesn't have many spaces and I regularly overhear residents of the houses complaining at us having to park there, it's also worth noting we've seen notes being left on windscreens of cars from residents that are unhappy. We've also had various other issues with parking, including, but not limited to.

1. Having to replace out wing mirror twice due to parking on the kerb and it being taken off by another motorist.

2. Having to increase tyre pressure regularly again due to parking on the kerb.

3. Many complaints on Facebook pages "Swanley gossip" and "Swanley news for all" that wheelchair users and those with prams cannot get passed due to cars having no choice but to park on the kerb.

4. A rude sticker being placed on my car about "bad parking" again due to having no space to park so having to use the kerb.

We are also aware of the housing development opposite our row of houses "132 The Shaad" which has planning permission for 5 new build houses with a total of 10 car parking spaces. We have an ongoing fear that with only 2 spaces per house, and many houses having 2 cars - where will visitors park? The only answer we can see is in-front of our houses which again leaves limited space for those that actually live here. The exit from "132 The Shaad" is already going to be dangerous and of limited view and we believe by allowing a disabled bay to be put opposite the exit is going to cause more issues.

I'd be very happy to expand on any of the above and really would welcome an improved parking option for those of us along Swanley Lane without access to drives or allocated car parks."

OFFICERS' COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION

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It is unfortunate that the proposal will inconvenience some residents, but there is a number of sections of road locally with no parking restrictions, which provide alternative parking, albeit a short walk away.

The applicant meets KCC's personal assessment criteria for a parking bay, so unless there are compelling reasons to do so, it would be difficult for the Board not to approve the application, as this could 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.