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I note that measures c) to g) of the Abingdon Centre North scheme are recommended to be withdrawn. I wholeheartedly support this withdrawal for the following reasons.

The proposals for Fitzharrys Estate, Abingdon sought to address three perceived problems which actually are not problems experienced by the residents.

1. To address issues arising from school parking

Irrespective of whatever restrictions are in place, parents will continue to drop off and pick up their children from school. Most parents are considerate with their parking for the relatively short periods at the start and end of the school day. The proposed measures, adding restrictions for 10 hours a day, 6 days a week and 52 weeks of the year, were not warranted, were excessive, would not have affected this situation and would have impinged more on residents than on parents.

2. To address all day parking from commuters

This issue is not relevant as the current restrictions already prevent people from parking for the whole day whilst working in town. These restrictions work well and I have submitted some photos, taken on a typical day, which clearly supports this. The current restrictions were agreed in 2004. The problem was solved then and, twenty years later, that solution remains effective.

3. To provide options for residents by way of parking permits

Introducing residents' parking would create a series of problems for residents, particularly in Clifton Drive where some properties do not have driveways. The roads are simply too narrow to allow for on-street parking. With the exception of Fitzharrys Road, it is difficult for two small cars to pass each other let alone delivery vans, emergency vehicles or the dustbin lorry. In the past year, two cars in Clifton Drive have been damaged by delivery vans.

The proposed annual cost was exorbitant (nearly double that being proposed for Banbury). Offering 25 free visitor permits is derisory and only being able to purchase an additional 25, would be totally inadequate.

Conclusion

It is my opinion that the current restrictions work and generally work well. Across the Estate, residents work together to deal with any practical issues and this is one of the great strengths of our community. The proposed measures would have significantly inconvenienced the residents and created problems that are currently non-existent.

I therefore ask that the Cabinet Member agrees to the withdrawal of measures c) to g) for Abingdon Centre North.