

Abingdon Ock Street & Central North Proposed Permit Parking Areas

I welcome the recommendations made in the officers' report, advising that most of the proposed measures are not approved or taken forward.

Many residents living in the areas of the two proposed schemes have contacted me, as District Councillor for the streets in question, to raise objections. Considering reports made to me by residents and my own experience as a resident of Abingdon, it's my view that daytime parking and commuter parking in the outlined areas is not problematic enough or inconvenient enough to justify the proposed parking permit measures.

Given the views expressed by residents that the parking arrangements in place currently are generally practical and workable, the proposed fee of £132 per parking permit is too high. There will be households who run more than one car and will practically unavoidably incur this fee intended to alleviate an issue which in the main does not appear to cause undue difficulty. That being so, the schemes do not strike me as good value-for-money propositions.

I trust that when the Cabinet Member makes a judgement on the schemes, they will not attempt to second-guess the conclusions suggested in the report. The schemes as proposed are not necessary and daytime parking is not a major problem. A majority of residents have made it clear, through the consultation, that they do not wish for these schemes to be implemented.

I note that Withington Court has been singled out and the parking permit scheme there has been recommended for approval. I accept that Withington Court is situated differently than other roads in the Fitzharris area and may have different requirements. If implemented, I hope that a review which considers the views of residents will be carried out with an open mind after twelve months, as indicated in the report.

I am in favour the new additional double yellow lines at corners and junctions which have been proposed in the final report. The lines should help visibility and enable easier turning.

As a more general point, one of the best ways to free up space occupied by cars on roads and streets – parked or in motion - must be by making alternative means of transportation more appealing and accessible. If cycle routes and public transport were more widely used as a means of commuting, then we'd find roads less prone to traffic or parking congestion, and resources more efficiently spent.

The consultations which have been carried out are a welcome example of public engagement and a worthwhile exercise. Nonetheless, the majority response from residents is clear.

Cllr Robert Maddison

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