

### **Abingdon Centre North Parking**

While noting from the meeting papers that the recommendation is on the whole to withdraw the proposed introduction of permit parking, I still wish to make a statement so it is on record and may assist the Transport Management Team in future work.

Resident permit parking may work well in areas like the main Abingdon Centre and Oxford city, but it is not the right solution for Abingdon Centre North. Areas like the main Abingdon Town Centre have a high proportion of property without off street parking and residents are competing for road parking along side shoppers, businesses and all-day commuters. It is places like this where Resident Permit Parking may (I say may as it may still not always be the case) be a suitable solution.

Abingdon Centre North though is not like this. It is a residential area where most properties have off street parking and there is little shopper or commuter parking. While close to town, the current restrictions mean there is only a small area (approx. 15 cars) where all day parking is allowed. This area is on the South end close to the town centre and while it is predominantly used by commuters this is not a problem to residents as it is not directly in front of properties.

The proposal claims there is a parking problem, but I can provide photos if required that clearly show there is not. Daytime the roads are fairly clear, with the odd car parked legally when visiting a resident. At weekends there are more cars parked, but this is spread across the estate as it is visitors to residents, not all-day commuters or shoppers on a Saturday. It is noticeable that even the roads near town where you might expect more parking for shoppers or commuters do not have any increased parking. In fact, the section for all day parking may even have spaces on a Saturday, clearly showing there is not need to change the Monday to Friday restrictions to include Saturday.

The current restrictions that are in place are ideal for Abingdon Centre North, in fact the person who came up with them should get an award. If people started parking illegally it is easily enforceable as a Traffic Enforcement Officer would only need to visit once and simply place penalty notices on offending vehicles. For permit parking they would not only need to visit multiple times but also check for permits, note vehicle registrations which is time consuming.

Permit Parking should NOT be used as a one size fits all solution, and I hope you can see that the current solution in Abingdon Centre North, of mixed 8am-4pm and 10am-11am Monday to Friday, with a few places Monday to Saturday is a near perfect solution for a residential area with a high proportion of off street parking and is working well and does not need to change.