

ABINGDON: CENTRE NORTH AREA – PROPOSED RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING ZONE

Thank you for granting this opportunity to speak and to put forward a position on behalf of my family, close neighbours and the wider estate of Fitzharry's Manor. I was pleased to see the recommendation of Council Officers to this meeting to withdraw much of the proposed measures, and urge you to accept that recommendation.

For over 35 years I have worked as a consultant in the energy and environment sector and appreciate only too well the challenging decisions that must be made to encourage and incentivise behaviours to bring climate positive change. However, a lot of people on the estate have had sleepless nights worrying about the potential impact of the proposed changes, and the punitive nature of them.

My family and I have been resident at the end of Clifton Drive for 20 years this week, in one of the nine houses on the estate which have no off-street parking provision, and for whom permits would be essential – and therefore clearly punitive. The majority of houses on the estate do have off street parking and I do suspect that were this scheme to be introduced, uptake of permits would actually be quite low, and the argument that costs would be self-covering would not stack up.

I do note from the Officers report that it makes no attempt to understand the local detail of the Manor estate and makes a number of broad brush observations that are simply inaccurate. Thankfully, the recommendation is to withdraw the proposals; if the inaccuracies were considered correctly, this would only strengthen the argument to withdraw the proposals.

The estate has been subject to parking restrictions that I understand were introduced just a few years prior to our moving in. It is our belief that those restrictions, designed at the time hand in hand with the manor resident's association, have consistently delivered on objectives that this new proposal was seemingly put forward to try to solve.

Given that the current restrictions limit areas of unrestricted parking, there is simply not an issue of commuters/long term parking. These areas are commonly full during weekdays, but once they are full, there is only a few cars that end up on double yellows – and why, as many respondents have made clear, simple enforcement of the existing restrictions is all that is needed.

Thank you for listening to me, and I urge you to listen to the clear desires of the residents and agree with your Officers' recommendations to withdraw the measures.