

Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

From: James Dean <jamesdean@uwclub.net>
Sent: 22 July 2019 14:15
To: Jill Skinner; JUDY ANSCOMBE; Kate Gordon; Les Scott; Paul Darby; Philip Bray; Stan Sole; Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council
Cc: davidwickerson; Liz Wing; Don Saunders; Dennis Tallon
Subject: Beech Close Parking Problems
Attachments: Beech Close meeting 180719.docx; Beech Close parking problems - Meeting 18th July 2019.docx

Hi All

I attach a copy of some notes of the meeting Judy and I held with residents from Beech Close and others last Thursday together with some briefing notes from Judy. There is clearly a lot of support for something to be done to reduce the congestion in Beech Close, especially during school hours. Virtually all the residents in Beech Close were present including those from the Shire Hall. The proposal to provide double yellow lines on the east side of Beech Close was supported by all and was considered to be a matter of urgency. There are also letters of support from the Surgery and the school head teacher. Conditions have deteriorated over the past couple of years and the situation will only get worse with the proposed enlargement of the White Cross Road school and future plans for both the Campingland Surgery and the Community Centre. There is a possibility that residents will be prepared to pay for most if not all of the cost of processing the traffic orders and for the actual work.

Due to the pressure on parking spaces and given that it is unlikely the regulations will be enforced on a regular basis by the traffic wardens, there is also concern whether the new restrictions will be observed by those parking for the school. You will see from the notes that the meeting supported the idea of additional off-street parking being provided in the area, perhaps in the form of a "green" car park on the Antinghams field, with access from Beech Close. It would helpful if this idea could be pursued with Heygate Farms to see if agreement can be reached with them. If so, it would be necessary to provide cost estimates of the work and consider how such a project could be funded.

Regards

JAMES



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Beech Close meeting

Welcome & Introductions

JA as a resident, not town councillor

James Dean...we are involved in the TAFG, sub committee of STC, where the issue relating to Beech Close parking has been on the agenda.

Dennis Tallon - Chair IP

Don Saunders – Mgr CC

David W – BDC but here as a resident of White Cross Road

Apologies received from Marion Link, Head of Swaffham Infant School and Liz Wing, Practice Manager at Campingland Surgery, who have other commitments.

Housekeeping Announcement – Fire exits and toilets

Meeting notes

We all are aware of the problems in Beech Close are, the grid lock at certain times; so we know about getting out of your drive and there is a car across it or trying to get in and your driveway is blocked, but we're here to talk about how we can resolve the problem.

Linked to the Transport Group meeting, there are monthly meeting with the Town Clerk with David Jacklin, NCC Highways engineer. There have been discussions regarding Beech Close and he has provided an estimated cost of £5K to put double yellow lines along the current single line route.

The main cost is in the Permissions and Licensing; the actual yellow lines is minimal amount.

It is unlikely that due to government cutbacks and the pressure that NCC are under for monies, that there would be any funding form this avenue.

It was suggested to us that we could apply under the Parish Partnership Scheme, which James is looking into, but even if we found a source of revenue, it would have to be via match funding route i.e. 50:50 contribution.

The notes from the June meeting with David Jacklin state;

A proposal is awaited from the Transport Group for the Town Council to consider before being put forward to the Highways design team.

JA would also be meeting with neighbours from Beech Close for possible financial support for the £5000 cost. Town Clerk has also mentioned that a letter of support for the changes, from the residents would be useful.

So, the question is can we put some money in the pot or do you have any other suggestions for solving the problem.

Note: Traffic Warden

Things to consider in a proposal – Safety, Reduced pollution from cars shunting back and forth to allow access, idling of parked cars causing even more pollution.

Beech Close parking problems – meeting of local residents, Thursday, 18th July 2019, Swaffham Community Centre, 4 pm

1. **Introduction:** 31 local residents and other interested parties attended the meeting. Judy Anscombe explained that she was pleased to see such a good turn out and had offered to chair the meeting, but as a local resident directly affected and not as a Town Councillor. James Dean who had also been involved on discussions about the Beech Close problem as Secretary of the Transport & Access Focus Group for the town, agreed to take notes. There were apologies from Marion Link, head teacher of White Cross Road school and also Liz Wing from the Campingland Surgery.
2. **The Problem?** Judy acknowledged that there was wide concern over the congestion in Beech Close as the waiting restrictions allowed parking to take place on the east side (right hand side going in) of Beech Close, from the White Cross Road junction down to the Community Centre. At times it was not possible for ambulances and other traffic to gain access as the available space was blocked with parked cars. James explained that the single yellow line on the east side only applies on Saturdays so it is perfectly legal for cars to park there at present during the week.

The surgery has 7,300 patients on its books, an increase of 20.3% in eight years. The school has 181 pupils with increases planned to 210 by 2023. Parking has spread well beyond Beech Close over the past few years and David Wickerson (a resident in White Cross Road) stated that the whole of this road is full of parked cars during the school opening and leaving hours. David also referred to the huge increase in traffic in White Cross Road in recent years with many HGV's ignoring the lorry ban.

3. **Possible solution:** Judy and James advised that discussions had been held with officers from the Town Council and from Norfolk County Council and the proposal at present is to introduce double yellow lines on the east side of Beech Close which would operate "at any time". The key to this working properly is a combination of enforcement by traffic wardens and compliance by the general public. James said in his opinion the scheme would work far better if at the same time the traffic orders for the new restrictions were being processed, an area of land could be set aside in the Antinghams field as a "green" car park, with entry from Beech Close. This should have sufficient

capacity to take the displaced cars from Beech Close and at least some of the White Cross Road parked cars. It is understood that Heygate Farms who own the Antinghams field are not against this proposal so long as the Beech Close restrictions are implemented as part of the scheme.

4. **Costing:** This is a particularly difficult area as NCC have no current funds for small highway and traffic works. The criteria for the Parish Partnership Scheme (NCC / STC) which provides some funds for small works does not include schemes where traffic order changes are involved. However, Ed Colman the County Councillor for Swaffham does have some funds which he can use for particular small projects. Also, it is understood that STC also has a small fund available for minor highway projects. Beyond that, it would be helpful if all local residents could also contribute a small amount. What may now be needed is a costing for both the yellow lines (£5,000) and the layout of a “green” car park.
5. **Summary:** Judy stressed the need for as much hard evidence as can be obtained to be supplied by all. She already had support from the Surgery and the School and would contact both the Fire and Ambulance services for evidence of delays. She felt that if agreement to a scheme could be reached, contributions from residents would be key as this shows some commitment to the project. Further discussions would now be held with the Transport group and STC suggesting both the additional yellow lines and the provision of additional off- street parking. She thanked all for coming.

Meeting closed at 4.45 pm.