

34 Orchard Drive,
Durham,
DH1 1LA.

(but soon to be
2 Brakespear Close, off Redhills Lane,
Durham, DH1 4BF.)

26th September, 2013

Durham County Council,
County Hall,
Durham,
County Durham,
DH1 5UL

Ref: 92624

Dear Ms Loraine Holding,

In reference to the Durham City (South West) Parking and Waiting Restrictions Order 2013 (ref 92624), I would like to raise my objections to one part of this Order. I am specifically opposed to the new Restricted Waiting zone that is proposed for Redhills Lane (map reference numbers DV139, DW139).

I'd like to understand why the Council thinks this restriction needs to be implemented. My first thought was that it was a problem with people parking on the east side of the upper part of Redhills Lane and walking to work in Durham City. This is clearly not the case because that part of Redhills Lane is free of restrictions. My second thought is that it must be related to Durham Johnstone School. That is also not the case because there are no parking restrictions outside the Redhills entrance/exit to Durham Johnstone School. So I am utterly baffled why restrictions are required in between these two zones. Clearly there are building works at the Bellway Crawshaw Grange site but these are due to be complete in the next couple of months. After this the street will revert to normal.

If there really is a permanent issue here, the proposed restriction would apply to the two busier parts of Redhills Lane. Since these sections are not affected by this proposal, the logical assumption is that there isn't any significant issue in these areas and therefore the section of Redhills Lane to which the Order applies, will actually be quieter with less disruption than either of the parts towards the west and east of the upper section of Redhills Lane.

As part of the wider proposal, this part of the Order is a complete waste of time and more importantly a waste of taxpayer's money. The proposed Redhills Lane "No Waiting Restriction" should be removed from the Order meaning that there will be no further costs to the council associated with administration, marking out the roads and signage. Furthermore, there will be no on-going costs to enforce the restrictions.

To indicate further flaws in the proposal, I can raise the following points but in truth, I cannot see one positive aspect of the proposal. Firstly these restrictions would mean the neighbouring streets such as St Monica Grove, St Aiden's Crescent, Priors Close or the part of Redhills Lane near the Durham Johnstone School entrance would then be subjected to increased parking. Secondly, Redhills Lane is often used as a "rat-run" for drivers leaving the city centre and the presence of some parked cars will have some impact on slowing traffic speeds. If there are no parked cars on this road during school hours, does that not make it less safe for the Durham Johnstone students to be walking along this road? In my view it would be less safe.

Either of the Residents Parking schemes found elsewhere in the city are viable alternatives to the proposal but they still have costs associated with administration and enforcement. However, I honestly believe parking on this section of Redhills Lane is not going to be an on-going issue and the Council should not proceed with this part of the Order

Yours sincerely,



Dr Anthony Rees



Contact: Lee Mowbray
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Your ref:
Our ref:



Dr Anthony Rees
34 Orchard Drive
Durham
DH1 1LA

22nd October 2013

Dear Dr Rees

Re: Durham City (South West) Parking & Waiting Restrictions Order 2013

Thank you for your response dated 26th September in relation to the above and may I take this opportunity to apologise for the delay it has taken to respond.

The proposals to which you refer were borne out of a meeting earlier this year between Durham County Council Traffic Section, the local County Councillor for the area and a number of residents. The residents of this area have long since complained concerning the manner of parking associated with the school and the effect it has on road safety. To expand, as I am sure you are aware, Redhills Lane is extremely busy during term time and is often parked up on the northern side of the area in question by vehicles associated with the school. These vehicles create problems for resident trying to access and egress their driveways in two ways. Firstly, owing to the limited width of the road at this point, vehicles parked opposite the properties can cause a degree of obstruction thus making the manoeuvre on/off driveways difficult. Secondly, vehicles approaching the bend in a north – west direction are having to do so on the opposite of the road which we are informed leads to numerous instances of vehicle conflict.

This proposal was initially consulted on in March 2013 and at this time, the scheme was to introduce a No Waiting restriction on Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm on both sides of the road between numbers 10 and 16 Redhills Lane. This proposal met with some opposition from the residents as they felt the extents of the restrictions did not extend far enough. Hence, further consultation was undertaken which has resulted with the proposal as it stands today.

During the consultation period, requests were received for additional restrictions, particularly in the section between the bend towards the A167. Whilst the parking in this area can be congested at times, these proposals have been rejected as this area is considered far enough away from the bend so that visibility is not restricted.

I trust that the above goes some way to explaining the rationale behind the decision to propose these restrictions, however if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me using the details at the top of this letter.

Should you wish to maintain your objection to this scheme I would be extremely grateful if you could let me know by 4th November 2013.

Yours faithfully

Lee Mowbray

Traffic Office
Durham County Council

Regeneration and Economic Development
Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UQ
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34 Orchard Drive,
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Regeneration and Economic Development,
Durham County Council,
County Hall,
Durham,
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Ref: 92624

1 November 2013

Dear Mr Lee Mowbray,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 October 2013 replying to my concerns regarding the parking on Redhills Lane as part of the Durham City (South West) Parking and Waiting Restrictions Order 2013.

I still wish to confirm my objections since there are inconsistencies in your explanation of the proposed restrictions.

Firstly the concern over people parking on the bend in Redhills Lane is clearly a valid one. However, away from the bend, you suggest that:

"requests were received for additional restrictions, particularly in the section between the bend towards the A167. Whilst the parking in this area can be congested at times, these proposals have been rejected as this area is considered far enough away from the bend so that visibility is not restricted."

I agree that this is a valid argument but it should also be applied to the south-east section of Redhills Lane where the proposed restrictions extend approximately three times as far towards Durham City Centre when compared to how far they extend towards the A167. In other words, the parking restrictions should be equidistant to the bend.

You also state that:

"the scheme was to introduce a No Waiting restriction on Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm on both sides of the road between numbers 10 and 16 Redhills Lane"

The scheme does not affect access to the garage of number 10 but it does affect access past number 24. If the same distance was applied to the south east as has been applied to the west, then only numbers 12, 14 and 16 would be affected.

One of my initial points was that any parking by non-residents would shift to nearby areas. Clearly this argument has already been noted since the restrictions are proposed to extend along Redhills Lane so that parking is restricted outside *SOME* properties (numbers 18, 20, 22, 24) yet others who live nearer (or at a similar distance) to the bend (i.e. numbers 10 and possibly 8, 6, 4, 2, 7, 9) remain unaffected by the proposal indicating that it is not that big of a problem away from the bend. If the restrictions are

enforced, parking associated with the school will simply shift onto other side streets or further down Redhills Lane thus affecting other residents and their access to their driveways.

In short, some residents appear to be getting preferential treatment whereas all residents should be treated equally. The only logical way equality can be achieved is to introduce a "residents only parking scheme". This type of scheme would serve to dramatically reduce parking in the area and would also clear the road around the bend in Redhills Lane. Under these circumstances, the no waiting restrictions would probably not need to be applied but if they were to be applied then the distance covered should be greatly reduced on the south eastern side.

Furthermore, areas east of the A167 already have residents parking schemes and the area of Crossgate Moor around Redhills Lane and St Monica's Grove is actually atypical in terms of "residents only parking". Areas to the south such as Farnley Ridge or St John's Road at Nevilles Cross are covered by the "residents only parking scheme" as are areas to the north (such as Springwell Road in the North End/Whitesmocks area of Durham). A key reason for the area to the north requiring resident's only parking must be the proximity of the hospital. How is this different to the proximity of a secondary school and sixth form? A key reason for the parking restrictions to the south must be the proximity to the city centre. This area of Redhills Lane is the same distance to the city centre as Nevilles Cross.

In my view the logical solution here is to introduce "residents only parking" with specific no waiting areas such as around the bend in Redhills Lane. There is no specific need to extend this particular no waiting zone to the south east as far as currently proposed. A third of the proposed distance is more than adequate to ensure road safety.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Anthony Rees



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* Where I quote "residents only parking scheme" I am not distinguishing between a "residents only parking" or a "residents only parking with pay and display" or a mixture of both schemes. Any of these is a viable alternative.

Copied to:

Email to Lee Mowbray <lee.mowbray@durham.gov.uk>

Hard Copy delivered to County Hall.