

**NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

RESIDENTIAL PARKING

MAY 2020

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Chair's Foreword

I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the Communities Scrutiny Committee. These are the findings, conclusions and recommendations from its review into Residential Parking.

This was a full review taking in all the areas effecting parking within the district.

During the review period the Committee held a number of interviews at which it heard from a range of Officers and stakeholders. It also consulted four Parish/Town Councils in Clay Cross, Dronfield, Eckington and Killamarsh on their experiences of issues raised by their residents on this topic. Representatives were also invited from the Councils to present their submissions direct to the Committee.

The Committee heard from all stakeholders how much parking impacts on the residents of North East Derbyshire from planning applications, bin collections, emergency response vehicles and the use of leisure facilities.

The report contains a number of recommendations which we feel will make parking within the District better for all residents.

I would like to thank all the members of the Scrutiny Committee for their hard work throughout the year which has made the review an enjoyable process. I would also like to extend a special thanks to the Scrutiny Manager Sue Veerman for her hard work and input which has made the review possible.

Review Panel

The review panel comprised the following members:

Councillor K Tait	-	(Conservative) – Review Panel Chair
Councillor J Birkin	-	(Labour)
Councillor L Deighton	-	(Conservative)
Councillor M Foster	-	(Conservative)
Councillor O Gomez Reaney	-	(Conservative)
Councillor R Hall	-	(Conservative)
Councillor D Hancock	-	(Liberal Democrat)
Councillor J Lilley	-	(Labour)

1. Recommendations

That:

- 1.1 The Council consider the introduction of a facility on its own website for residents to report bad parking within the Councils area.
- 1.2 The Council investigate the feasibility of providing an increased Civil Enforcement budget for use directly by the Council or if this was not possible to Derbyshire County Council to undertake additional enforcement on our behalf.
- 1.3 That the effectiveness of using Grasscrete at suitable locations within the District to offer further parking opportunities for residents be investigated
- 1.4 That the Council investigate the feasibility of setting a minimum standard of two car parking spaces per property for both Council and private developments.
- 1.5 That as part of the review into garages and garage sites consideration be given as to whether they can provide additional residents parking.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 At its meeting on 7 June 2019 the Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a review of Residential Parking.
- 2.2 The Committee felt that it was timely to review this area following a motion at Council on 20 May 2019.

3. Scope of Review

- 3.1 The review aimed to:
 - Consider the provision of residential parking within the District
 - Gain an understanding of what the resident parking issues are within the District
 - Identify any actions the Council could consider to resolve these resident parking issues

4. Method of Review

- 4.1 The review panel met on six occasions to consider the scope of the review, key issues they wanted to discuss and key people they wished to interview.
- 4.2 Evidence was gathered in a variety of ways including documentation, external submissions and interviews.

5. Evidence and Research

A number of documents and evidence were provided to the review panel for consideration. Details are provided below:

- Presentation by Victoria Vernon and Tracy Buckland – Senior Engineers
- Presentation by Niall Clark – Director of Property and Development – Rykneld Homes
- Residential Parking Strategy
- NEDDC Parking Space Creation 2009 to 2019
- NEDDC Parking space Loss/Gain 2009/2019
- Hard Standing Application Process
- Specification for the Construction on Driveways and Hard standings on Council Owned Property
- Application Form To Construct a Hard standing and Dropped Kerb
- Derbyshire County Council Guidance – Vehicular Access
- Garage Site Costing and Bay Pricing Examples
- Garage plots per area – September 2019
- Report to Asset Management Group on Estate Green Open Space – Vehicular Erosion Mitigation
- Asset Management Group Minutes Summary
- Submission by Clay Cross Parish Council
- Submission by Dronfield Town Council
- Submission by Eckington Parish Council
- Submission by Killamarsh Parish Council
- Submission by Councillor – Eckington Parish Council
- Council Minute - Motion – 20th May, 2019
- Agreement Relating to The Civil Enforcement of Parking In the Administrative County of Derbyshire

6. Key Findings

6.1 Observations

- 6.1.1 The review panel heard evidence that issues with residential parking are a District wide issue and different solutions are required in different areas. There is a lack of off and on street parking space within the District. Many properties were built before mass car ownership and without a drive or parking provision. Estate roads can be narrow and on street parking creates access issues. The cost of providing drives or hard standings for tenants can be a problem. There are also difficulties sometimes on estates for refuse vehicle who have to over run on verges if access is difficult due to parked cars. Additionally people also park on verges and open spaces which can cause problems with the surfaces being damaged.
- 6.1.2 Enforcement of parking can be very difficult. Civil parking enforcement is the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council (DCC), who manage it across the County (excluding Derby city) in partnership with the eight district and borough Councils. This is undertaken by civil enforcement officers (CPO) who enforce a range of restrictions. There are a limited number of CEOs. The DCC website states that civil parking is not a reactive service and requests for enforcement will be scheduled into routine patrols, as and when resources allow. DCC also

manage the enforcement of on-street regulations. As a District Council we manage off-street enforcement, such as pay and display car parks. The Panel also discussed the powers and resources available to the Police in dealing with residential parking issues. Members agreed that greater enforcement, traffic calming measures and by-laws could be effective solutions.

- 6.1.3 The review panel have been updated on a new Residential Parking Strategy that had been agreed by Cabinet on 7 November 2019. They have also been advised that Rykneld Homes Ltd would be promoting parking provisions within the District in order to address residents' concerns. The panel additionally considered further evidence of a number of trial areas in the District, which include Holymoorside, Apperknowle and Kelstedge.

6.2 Good Practice

- 6.2.1 The review panel had reviewed the process for making an application to construct a hard standing and a dropped kerb on a property. The specification for this process had likewise recently been reviewed. The aim was to make the process more user friendly. The review panel was advised that other information and guidance to residents was also being improved and developed. The review panel welcomed this as it provided options that residents could consider to provide themselves with parking.

- 6.2.2 The review panel heard from the Director of Property Services and Development at Rykneld Homes about a review that was being undertaken of existing garages and their future use. The Review Panel were pleased to hear this as repurposing of garages was a possible solution they had considered and concluded would be of use to residents where appropriate.

- 6.2.3 The School Parking Partnership Initiative was raised as a positive development. A number of schools across the country had been initiating actions to highlight poor or irresponsible parking which could put others at risk. In the District a school in Wingerworth have been working with their local Safer Neighbourhood policing team, communities and road safety teams to try to stop parking and congestion around the school. The school had also adopted an initiative where parents can safely pull in to a designated layby and drop off their children, where they are met and safely escorted in to the school grounds without parents having to park up. Feedback from parents and local residents had been positive and a reduction in parking or congestion around the school had occurred. Several schools within the District were located amongst residential areas so this was seen as a helpful initiative.

6.3 Areas for Improvement

- 6.3.1 The review panel invited comments from Town/Parish Councils at Clay Cross, Dronfield, Eckington and Killamarsh on their experiences of parking issues within their areas. Issues raised included increasing volumes of traffic, inconsiderate and sometimes illegal parking, arguments and violence around schools and reduction in some free parking facilities which could impact on residential car parking. Insufficient enforcement was a significant concern

raised by many contributors. One Council provided details of a Traffic Enforcement Scheme that they had agreed, which it hoped would make the area safer for both road users and pedestrians, especially in areas around local schools.

As a result of this evidence the panel had considered whether the introduction of a mechanism for reporting bad parking on the NEDDC's website would be useful. It was felt this would allow for vehicles to be identified and also which areas were having particular issues so potential targeting could be considered.

- 6.3.2 Having heard of the difficulties being experienced by a number of people who gave evidence on getting successful enforcement within their areas the panel considered what options the Council might have to improve this situation. Currently Derbyshire County Council carry out enforcement and the District Council make a contribution for this. The review panel discussed whether the Council could consider increasing the budget for Civil Enforcement as they felt this would help residents with parking. However, it may be that the County Council would not wish to undertake this extra work. Therefore the review panel felt consideration should be given to any available options that NEDDC could take to provide additional support in this area.
- 6.3.3 The review panel discussed problems with people parking on verges and grassed areas and the covering of garden areas with hard surfaces where residents sought to provide parking for their vehicles. This could present issues such as surface water drainage problems. The review panel felt that it would be worthwhile in considering the feasibility and effectiveness of using a product like Grasscrete where appropriate. Grasscrete is a pervious reinforced concrete structure for all types of trafficked areas that is either covered with grass, has grass growing in the voids of the structure or has stone in the voids of the structure
- 6.3.4 The review panel discussed, with the Head of Planning, the parking provision for new developments and what the current standards were. They also heard from Director of Property and Development at Rykneld Homes that they were developing options for the creation of additional parking on estates. Additional parking was also being created during major regeneration projects. The review panel felt that they would like to see a minimum of two parking spaces per house both for Council and private developments.
- 6.3.5 The review panel heard that currently garages were being demolished where they were in poor condition and the demand was low. Additionally many garages are no longer large enough for a lot of modern cars. This had the potential for residents parking provision. However, it was recognised that sometimes the location of garage sites were not suitable for this purpose. Additionally vacant garage sites were also being used to produce new homes with parking. The repurposing of garage sites was an area the panel felt needed to be considered for the provision of additional resident parking.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The review panel gathered a variety of evidence from a mix of officers at North East Derbyshire and Rykneld Homes. They also reviewed a number of relevant documents and policies in connection with the review. It was apparent that the issues surrounding residential parking were varied and different solutions were required in different areas.
- 7.2 However, the review panel felt that they had heard evidence on potential solutions that may improve some of the issues being experienced by residents. A number of recommendations were made for these solutions to be investigated further.

Appendix 1

Stakeholders Engaged During the Review

Steve Brunt	-	Head of Street scene
Tracy Buckland	-	Senior Engineer
Niall Clark	-	Director of Property and Development
Richard Purcell	-	Head of Planning
Victoria Vernon	-	Senior Engineer
Clay Cross Parish Council		
Dronfield Parish Council		
Eckington Parish Council		
Killamarsh Parish Council		