

# OLD MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL


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## **Public meeting to discuss parking issues throughout the parish.**

**Held in the Mortimer Hall on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014.**

Apologies : Ms D Shaw, Duncan Hatfield

Total Present : 79

Charlie Haynes welcomed everyone, introduced David Tole (Principal Engineer, Traffic Safety & Improvements, Oxfordshire County Council) and Tim Cann (Clerk to Old Marston Parish Council), and ran through procedures in case of fire, where the toilets were.

Charlie then went through a brief resume of what had happened so far:

- 2011 Parish Council sent all households within the Parish a questionnaire
  
- sent out 1308
- Responded 111
- Do Nothing 45
- Residents Only 18
- Disabled Parking 2
- Double Yellow Lines 14
- Limited waiting 18
- White Lines 1
- Multiple choices 2

A very poor response, most responses came from outside the village which was understandable as that was where most of the parking issues were.

- Steering Committee met with David Tole highlighting areas of concern, Oxford Road and the service road and Ewin Close. A traffic survey was agreed on areas excluding the village.
- Parking restrictions brought into force on the corner of Rippington Drive, Mortimer Drive, Horseman Close, Ashlong Road, Dents Close & Elms Drive

All this did was drive the problem further into the estate.

- 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013 : Chairman of Parish Council, County Councillor Mark Lygo & our two City Councillors Mary Clarkson & Mick Haines met with David Tole. Agreed traffic survey to be carried out.
- Carried out Tuesday 26th November 2013
- Started at 4am and then every 2 hours
- Cars parking overnight assumed residents
- 140 cars parked, double the 2007 number
  
- 9 June 2014 : Parish Council met with David Tole. To review results of survey and date agreed for tonight's public meeting.

David Tole went through the survey showing how the parking issues had got worse. However, there was no open cheque book, it was likely to take several years to work towards where we want to be. Some hotspots like Oxford Road bus route may be priority as an important route to and from city centre and the JR hospital.

Residents Parking Zones do not do what residents want as they bring restrictions for them also.

Marston South zone's every street is restricted parking, double yellow lines except for white boxes that allow parking. Never enough parking available even for residents.

Lakes zone is a better system where if you park you need a permit, signs stating restrictions but no yellow lines, so cheaper, residents trusted to park sensibly.

Both would work BUT would just push the problem into the village.

Permits are £50 for the first car, £100 for up to 3 cars and £150 for 4 plus.

Permits are first 25 and free per resident, £16 after that.

Consultation can be of two forms 1. Everyone has their view or 2. Councillors have their ideas and go from there.

Charlie Haynes suggested refining questionnaire and discuss at next Parish Council meeting.

Mr Langton (Gordon Close) another survey is not needed. Just walk round and see problems. Carlton Coaches parked in Oxford Road sometimes 2 or 3 at a time, white van parked in Oxford Road been there for over a year, JR staff park gets bike out of boot and go off, buses on Oxford Road jammed to Beechey avenue, end of Rippington & Mortimer Drive have 2 hour only parking areas which seem to work.

Christine Smith (Oxford Road) agree and parking by parents dropping off children a massive problem.

John Woodley (Nicholas Avenue) Oxford Road needs addressing immediately but that would just push problem into Lewell Avenue and Nicholas Avenue, Brookes University say take registration numbers but nothing happens, system in Croft Road & Northway works why is Old Marston last area.

Paul West (Ewin Close) Some areas, such as Ewin Close, need doing immediately but no point just that. A year ago David Tole agreed to yellow lines in Ewin Close but nothing happened.

Alan Spence (Arlington Drive) Some mornings can take him 15 minutes just to drive off estate, in Watford, where he works, they have one side road 1 hour parking, other side 1 hour parking for different time which works and no permits needed.

Mike Haines (Oxford City Councillor) a bus clearway would help and no parking on grass verges.

Ken Buckingham (Gordon Close) the old Milham Ford School site has field in front. Brooke's should be made to make that into a car park.

Brian Welby (Horseman Close) the highway code states no parking too close to junctions, why have double yellow lines and these should go further into roads.

Mr Hosier (Haynes Road) wants double yellow lines round the corner as he has difficulty getting his car out of the drive if car parked too close.

Tony Greenfield (Raymund Road) the Lakes system has minimum signage and works. Carters estate only has 2 entrances so would be easy to put signs at entrance and that would cover the whole estate.

David Tole replied that he took on board the comments:

- a) Bus's on Oxford Road in desperate need of doing something BUT where would the cars go.
- b) Highway code and grass verge signage ignored now, so nothing stopping any new restrictions being ignored.
- c) Brookes have a theory, falsely, that if they do not provide parking facilities people will not use their cars!
- d) Its important to get a wide view of the Parish as a whole not just finger in the dam methods
- e) Watford's one hour one side and one hour the other side works, probably because all residents have off road parking.

Some areas have specific issues but it needs to be thought through carefully what measures are brought in. For instance, to remove all parking along the Oxford Road and the first thing to happen is that speed would increase.

Tony Greenfield (Raymund Road) has Bus Company been asked for its view?

David Tole stated that the Bus Company must have suffered from delays to the service and would accept any measures that would improve its service.

Val Swirel (Oxford Road) even when people park across your driveway you call the police but they do nothing.

Mr Buckingham (Gordon Close) needs yellow lines on the corner of Gordon Close as difficult getting out of drive sometimes.

H. Morris (Arlington Drive) need a proper survey like "have you your own drive?"

Michael Clarke (Lewell Avenue) needs double yellow lines

M Kitching (Lewell Avenue) we got a partition of 700 people but nothing happened.

Alan Spence (Arlington Drive) Everyone wants some action now.

Barrie Lewis (Fairfax Avenue) Garage at end of Raymund Road flattened can't the land be used for parking.

Mary Clarkson (Councillor) I have been looking into this, it may relieve some road parking but not a lot.

Mrs Powell (Oxford Road) speeding on the service road already a problem when buses can't get through, cars cut up onto service to beat others.

Nils Bartleet (Salford Road) You do a survey to find out if you have a problem, we already know we have a problem. David Tole is the expert so he needs to come up with possible solutions to give people.

Mike Freeman (Elsfield Road) What if we lose the bus service in the village? Traffic calming just causes delays and accidents. Single yellow line from the Friar straight through the village for a start.

David Tole I was wrong to say there is no money. Its what the County Council chose to spend it on. I get a sense from the meeting that

concrete suggestions needed, not formal proposal. A questionnaire could be administered by the Parish Council and everyone encouraged to complete. I accept surveys have been done over the years, I will have to see if money is available, although not making any promises. Parish Council may wish to contribute. However, doing nothing is the final option which people will not like.

N. Woodley (Nicholas Avenue) I feel everyone dragging their heels. Seems that if the majority of the Parish Council does not want it then it doesn't happen.

David Tole I am willing to work closely with the Parish Council to move things forward, we all want a solution although the last survey showed little interest from parishioners.

Alan Spence (Arlington Drive) I am concerned that the school goes back in 3 or 4 weeks and a survey will take months, we need something now.

Mick Cadd (Oxford Road) people missing the point, we can put yellow lines everywhere but what costs is manning them.

John Woodley (Nicholas Avenue) why is it just Marston that's been left out. All over the City there have been parking restrictions. Its works in Lakes and Croft Road area so why can't we have it here. Everyone just dragging their heels.

David Tole cost of running the parking restrictions is covered by the permits and we do not set targets to fine people, we want compliance.

Mary Clarkson (Oxford City Councillor) consultation was gone through with New Marston, it was very important process and can either make or break any scheme. Yes it may delay final solution but better to get it right.

David Tole someone said about going over the Parish Council's head that would lead you to the County Council and the same process.

Meeting ended: 8pm.