



Rutland
County Council

Rutland County Council

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Bi

18/8/2021

Dear Resident,

Re: ITCP-2020-10 Kings Road (Parking issues)

A highway concern was submitted to Rutland County Council through the Integrated Transport Capital Programme (ITCP). All highway concerns submitted to RCC are logged with an ITCP reference number. All updates are provided on the Council website at the following link and then open the progress report link:

<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/transport/transport-strategy/highway-and-transport-concerns/>

A meeting was held on site between the local ward members and RCC officers on 21/7/2021, with a follow up meeting on the 4/8/2021 to discuss the findings.

Concerns about parking issues on Kings Road, as indicated by the ITCP number, have been collated under a highway concern dating back to early 2020. Monitoring has taken place where possible over the lockdown period mindful that there may be more residents working from home but taking into consideration that traffic levels have not returned to pre-lockdown levels according to the Police. There is a history of concern about the area going back to before the last Parking Strategy was published in 2012. It is appreciated that the area is made up of high-density housing and the area of Oakham west of the railway shares this. There is a view that parking issues in west Oakham need to be assessed holistically. A majority of properties do not have adequate off-street private parking and this is reflected on on-street parking and in property market costs, as is normal in historic areas just outside town centres.

On site it was observed that vehicles park along both sides of the road which causes the carriageway to become narrow. This has recently prevented the refuse lorry from accessing Kings Road to carry out the bin collections. When the bin lorry has been unable to access the road, they have come back on subsequent days and have still been unable to access the road.

To mitigate this problem the Council have now changed the time of collection for when the road is quieter. The bin collection will be the first collection of the day approx. 7am. Therefore, please ensure your bin is out first thing/the night before to be collected.

Concern was raised about emergency vehicle access. Our Parking Services section had already been in contact with the Fire Service. Their comment was that although access is

seen as tight, it is manageable in as much as they would gain access by tucking wing mirrors in and asking residents to move vehicles as they would in an emergency in an urban context.

During the meeting on the 4/8/2021 a range of options for Kings Road were discussed, in addition to the change of bin collection times and size of vehicles. The option and comments are as follows:

- One way system
 - o This would not make the road any wider as vehicles could still park on both sides of the carriageway. The main issue with one way system is vehicle speeds can increase as the driver knows there will not be an approaching hazard of another vehicle. Therefore, this option was discounted. This option has been considered multiple times and ought not to be re-considered if the streetscape remains the same.
- Passing places along Kings Road
 - o This would not make the road any wider, however would enable vehicles to pass another vehicle without having to reverse a long distance. This option however would result in the loss of parking spaces (a minimum of 3 spaces). Due to the perceived lack of parking in this area, the loss of 3 spaces would have an impact on the resident being unable to park outside their properties, and through displacement, an impact on neighbouring streets. Ideally the Council would need to receive evidence from a supermajority of residents of Kings Road and neighbouring streets, and political support, that this is desired, before any further study is undertaken. There are no accident statistics to prioritise this desire. Therefore, this (safety) option was discounted.
- Residents permit scheme
 - o This would prioritise residents over other road users but any scheme would have to balance with non-residential stakeholder interests (businesses / visitors). Having a correctly engineered resident permit parking scheme may actually reduce the amount of space available. The residents permit scheme would result in residents having to pay for a permit and possibly contribute to enforcement costs. There would be a set number of permits per property, and eligibility rules. Residents' vehicles would usually need to be registered / insured at the Kings Road address. At present it is not policy to have resident permits in this area, notwithstanding any perception / evidence of parking stress (capacity issue). The Council's Parking Strategy and policies are being updated now but there is unlikely to be any further remedy for this concern therein. Ideally the Council would need to receive evidence from a supermajority of residents of Kings Road and neighbouring streets (due to likely displacement), and political support, that this is desired before any further study is undertaken. There are no accident statistics to prioritise this desire. Therefore, this residential amenity option was discounted.
- Widening the road by reducing footpath width / advisory bay markings
 - o The footpaths along Kings Road are already at the minimum limit for footpaths widths. Therefore, if the footpath was reduced to widen the road this would have a detrimental impact on highway safety. It would prevent 2 wheelchairs/2 pushchairs from passing one another which would push pedestrians into the

carriageway. Due to safety of pedestrians this option was discounted. As for advisory bay markings, it is best in this environment to leave motorists with the responsibility, as licensed motorists, of parking appropriately according to the nature of the street, therefore this option is discounted.

From feedback from the refuse collection teams it would appear the change in collection time has mitigated the problem. Other options for Kings Road have been considered however due to the impact on highway safety or residents ease of parking the options have been discounted.

It is appreciated that this area is made of high-density housing, residents may still choose to keep vehicles, and visitors may still park, here – regardless of sustainable alternatives. If residents / visitors must park vehicles along Kings Road there are a few measures they can do to help with access along the road:

- Park according to the Highway Code
- Drive at speeds appropriate to the street
- Ensure you park as close to the kerb as possible and not on the footway
- Ensure you do not park where is unlawful to do so (yellow lines etc)
- If possible, fold wing mirrors in on the carriageway side
- Ensure wheels are kept straight once parked. When wheels are turned it can significantly reduce the carriageway width preventing access by larger vehicles.
- Only Park vehicles which can be accommodated by the nature of the street
- Park considerately / drive courteously

The council will share the content of this letter with personal details removed with Ward Members and Oakham Town Council for their information as they have been involved in dealing with concerns.

Yours sincerely,

