

Enquiries to: Heather Miller  
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Our Ref: ET05656  
Date: 9 April 2014

Dear Mrs Milne,

**Re: Objection Letter - Neighbourhood Parking Scheme, Grove Road Area**

Thank you for your letter it raised a number of key issues, understandably you are frustrated by both the current situation - living in close proximity to the school and the college, and the possibility that if the scheme was to be introduced the solution will not be 100% effective. Neighbourhood parking schemes produce varied opinion amongst the community affected. The goal is always to balance community opinion and hopefully provide a system that finds a compromise between local resident's needs and the people who regularly need to visit the area.

Our most recent surveys of local opinion have concluded that a significant majority of residents favour the introduction of a neighbourhood parking scheme – sharing with us their concerns that there was a local parking problem that needed to be addressed. There was also a clear majority to operate the restriction between 9.30am – 3.00pm, as the bulk of the problems escalate from parking associated with the college in the area where you live, commuters and to some extent shoppers, at the other end of the proposed permit area. The introduction of a neighbourhood parking scheme would be a positive step in trying to tackle the current situation.

The proposed parking scheme is currently collectively known as the Grove Road area. This scheme will extend from Grove Road/Grove Park east to include Springfield Road. We fully appreciate the economic consideration about weekend parking you stated in your letter, but residents closer to town have objections about commuters and shoppers parking outside their homes and preventing them from doing so. For this reason the proposed scheme was designed to be active Monday - Saturday. The scheme is to manage parking for the local community, including residents, teaching staff and parents of children at the school. We are not out to penalise anyone, but to eliminate the longer term parking by people from outside the residential area.

If the scheme is introduced Blue badge holders will be issued free permits and senior citizens who live in a non-car owning household receive a free permit so their carers can park close to their home. Teachers will have to apply for a permit, but this permit is discounted to reflect that they will only park Monday-Friday during term time. Unfortunately, there is no scope at the school to park on the grounds without removing play space for the pupils. The cost of issuing permits is associated with setting up the scheme, administration and enforcement once implemented. Enforcement is carried out by dedicated officers of St Edmundsbury Council rather than relying on police.

It is extremely frustrating for everyone when drivers ignore waiting restrictions, especially those in close proximity to a school. The introduction of the scheme would enforce waiting restrictions in the area, patrols would be more frequent and as you mentioned in your letter, with extra enforcement the situation would improve over time. If the scheme was to be introduced, there would be a review within 12 months of it commencing to allow residents to decide if they wish it to continue.

As you know we recently advertised the proposed scheme to encourage objection/support for the scheme. We are now at the stage where formal objections need to be withdrawn or the matter is taken to a meeting of the Council's Rights of Way Committee. This committee evaluates all the evidence and make a recommendation to the Portfolio Holder who is ultimately responsible for the final decision. Please could you let Heather Miller, Senior Legal Officer for Traffic Management know if you wish to withdraw your objection or proceed to it being considered by the Rights of Way Committee.

Yours faithfully

**Luke Barber**  
Project Manager  
Suffolk Highways