

Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel Virtual Meeting

Public Questions

Written Responses

Date: **Tuesday 13 October 2020**

Contact: Daksha Ghelani, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Tel: 020 8424 1881 E-mail: daksha.ghelani@harrow.gov.uk

Scan this code for the electronic agenda:



TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY PANEL – 13 OCTOBER 2020

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)

WRITTEN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC QUESTIONER 3

3.

Questioner: Michael Kleiman

Asked of: Councillor Jerry Miles, Chair of Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel

Question: “We have had an ongoing discussion with Harrow Council over the last 2 years with regard to pavement parking in Orchard Close which is a narrow circular close with many residents cars parked – basically we are not allowed to park on the pavement which is causing problems of access for emergency vehicles and Harrow Council Refuse Vehicles- as Parking Enforcement officers currently have instructions to issue penalty notices to cars parked in Orchard Close –even with “2 wheels on / 2 wheels off” parking mode.

These problems were put into real time situation today where the Brown Bin Collection lorry hit and damaged one our neighbours cars –Resident at No 12 - causing significant damage in trying to get round Orchard Close.

The photos and direct complaint about the actual incident will be made by the resident herself.

Also another resident this morning in the middle of sorting out her toddler and with other children in the house had to go out and move her car to let the Blue Bin Wagon round leaving her young children in the house unattended while she moved her car –so 2 problems in the same collection day.

The point of this email is to emphasize how this was a real example of an accident waiting to happen as whilst we as residents are not able to park with “ with 2 wheels on / 2 wheels off “ on the pavement in Orchard Close – which we did for years with NO problems for access to the Refuse Wagons-then it becomes difficult for the Refuse wagons to get round this road with no pavement parking.

Also recently (until the last 2 weeks) the Refuse wagons have been reversing down the approach road to Orchard Close with the Bin Collectors taking the bins to the wagon rather than trying to get the wagon round the narrow road with cars parked which was a sensible solution all round - so why have they stopped doing this and tried to get the wagons round again which caused both problems today?

All the residents in Orchard Close are upset about what happened today as it could have been any of our cars that were damaged and all we can hope is that after this serious incident that Harrow Council will look into the overall situation which caused the problem – namely the actual parking in Orchard Close itself and how all refuse collections will be carried out safely until the parking situation is resolved properly.”

For the sake of further illustrating the point re parking – we also had an incident in JANUARY 2019 which should be on record at Harrow Council where a fire engine got stuck on the green in the middle of Orchard Close for over 3 hours as it could not get round due to cars parked OFF the pavement in the road (08/01/2019)

**Written
Response:**

In London there is legislation in force that prohibits all parking on footways and verges created by the Greater London Council under the General Powers Act 1974.

The carriageway in Orchard Close is not wide enough to physically accommodate vehicle parking on-street without causing extreme difficulty for large vehicles to gain access and manoeuvre, such as for emergency service vehicles. Additionally, the footways are already at a minimum width to facilitate pedestrian movement and so a footway parking scheme would not be possible as vehicles parking on the footway would reduce width for pedestrians to a sub-standard level and have a serious impact on vulnerable road users.

Road users do have a responsibility to respect parking restrictions and park appropriately and the Council also has a responsibility to enforce these restrictions in the public interest.

The Council is currently considering reviewing footway parking issues across the borough with a view to resolving these issues next financial year.

TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY PANEL – 13 OCTOBER 2020

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)

WRITTEN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC QUESTIONER 5

5.

Questioner: C Procopiou

Asked of: Councillor Jerry Miles, Chair of Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel

Question: RE: Parking Problems at Orchard Close, London HA8 7RE

Two main problems with our street

1: very narrow Road

2: main entrance parking to the close is used as a storage of cars owned by repair garage in the area and non-residence car owners.

Point 2 can be solved by having a residence only parking which will certainly free up a lot of the parking problem.

Point 1 is also very easily solved by the council allowing us to park on the pavement.

Our street is a narrow close which causes havoc when large vehicles need to pass through.

Many of our cars have been damaged, the cause being vans and lorries trying to squeeze through narrow gaps.

The refuse vehicles cannot get through and those that have tried have certainly damaged some of our vehicles.

It is only a matter of time that an emergency will arise that will require a fire engine which will not be able to gain access and could very likely cause unnecessary casualties.

As a street we are all in agreement that the only solution is to allow us to partially park on the kerb without fear of traffic wardens or fines.

We have done this for many years and never had a problem.

It was not until the last couple of years that someone in the council felt it wise to alienate the whole street and basically go to war with us by sending traffic wardens.

This is a quiet road that pedestrians prefer to walk on the street. In all of my many years I have never seen anyone walk on the pavement.

As residents we all stand together and ask the Council to look at this as a matter of urgency and give us the solution we all expect?

**Written
Response:**

In London there is legislation in force that prohibits all parking on footways and verges created by the Greater London Council under the General Powers Act 1974.

The carriageway in Orchard Close is not wide enough to physically accommodate vehicle parking on-street without causing extreme difficulty for large vehicles to gain access and manoeuvre, such as for emergency service vehicles. Additionally, the footways are already at a minimum width to facilitate pedestrian movement and so a footway parking scheme would not be possible as vehicles parking on the footway would reduce width for pedestrians to a sub-standard level and have a serious impact on vulnerable road users.

Road users do have a responsibility to respect parking restrictions and park appropriately and the Council also has a responsibility to enforce these restrictions in the public interest.

The Council is currently considering reviewing footway parking issues across the borough with a view to resolving these issues next financial year.

TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY PANEL – 13 OCTOBER 2020

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (ITEM 6)

WRITTEN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC QUESTIONER 6

6.

Questioner: Gareth Thomas - MP

Asked of: Councillor Jerry Miles, Chair of Traffic and Road Safety Advisory Panel

Question: “Whether Harrow Council will consider introducing a local safety scheme in Alexandra Close?”

Written Response: Alexandra Close is a narrow crescent shaped private street which has low traffic volumes and low vehicle speeds and has no reported traffic accidents. The council’s criteria for a local safety scheme is based on reducing the number of personal injury accidents and in this case Alexandra Close is a street which has a good road safety record and therefore would need meet our criteria for a local safety scheme.

This page is intentionally left blank