

## 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.