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Mrs P Gow  
Hildenborough Parish Council  
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Contact Andy Bracey  
Email [andy.bracey@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:andy.bracey@tmbc.gov.uk)  
Your ref  
Our ref OSP-17  
Date 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Dear Mrs Gow

### Re: Petition on parking issues in Hildenborough

I refer to the Parish Council's recent letter and the attached petition from 36 residents to the Parish from 36 residents requesting a residential parking scheme in Mount Pleasant and the Half Moon Lane area.

As it stands I cannot give an accurate indication of the numbers of residential parking places that could be available if a residents parking scheme were to be introduced to the area – this would require significant investigations and design work that I am not currently resourced to carry out.

However, a very basic initial assessment of the roads mentioned, based on Ordnance Survey data on road widths, aerial photos and images from Google Streetview suggest that if a permit scheme was considered there might be the facility to allow permit parking for the following;

#### Half Moon Lane

- approximately 9-10 parking places in Half Moon Lane (the majority by the open grassed area), dependant on road width.

This needs to be compared to the approximately 11 properties (excluding the commercial premises) that would probably be eligible for permits

#### Mount Pleasant

- approximately 13-15 on the east-west section, dependant on road width and existing vehicle accesses and associated turning movements
- approximately 7-8 on the north-south section to the south of Mount Pleasant Court, dependant on road width
- approximately 12-13 on the north-south section to the north of Mount Pleasant Court (again subject to road width)

Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill,  
West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ

Director of Streetscene & Leisure:  
Robert Styles

- approximately 9-10 on the wider section at the Hildenborough Road end

This gives a rough total for Mount Pleasant of 41 to 46 parking places, but this needs to be compared to the approximately 70 properties (excluding the 21 properties in Mount Pleasant Court) that would probably be eligible for permits (though some have off-street parking provision).

With these totals in mind it is probable that any permit scheme would not meet the demand from residents – there are likely to be too many residents' vehicles trying to park in too little road space, whether there are permits in place or not, and the parking standards we would have to apply may be a reduction to the unregulated parking that already occurs.

It has to be remembered that a permit parking scheme is also not without cost - currently the Borough-wide charge to residents for parking permits are £35 per vehicle per year, so we could end up with residents who wish to park on-street having to purchase a permit to do so, but with capacity limited to significantly lower than the likely demand.

It is hard to recommend that a permit scheme be introduced on this basis, as the parking availability is exceeded by resident demand.

Undoubtedly this is exacerbated by parking by commuters and people working nearby, especially at the Hildenborough Road end, but the majority of the on-street parking is occupied overnight and in to the day, forcing the local workers and commuters on to Hildenborough Road.

The petition (and this initial analysis) will be reported at the next meeting of the Joint Transportation Board in September.

### **Car park signing**

Your letter also asks about the provision of direction signing to the two free car parks to assist in reducing the parking problems. This is something that the Borough can look at in conjunction with the County Council as the Highway Authority – there is potential for the provision of a direction sign to the village hall and TMBC car park at the Hildenborough Road / Riding Lane junction, and for the sign at the entry to the TMBC car park to be more conspicuous.

However, the Parish can be of assistance too – the Parish's car park entrance is reasonably anonymous to drivers and an appropriate sign could be erected that was visible from both directions and the Mount Pleasant / Riding Lane junction could improve car park usage. This could probably be located on the Parish's own property.

Yours sincerely

Andy Bracey FIHE  
Parking Manager