

RESPONSE FROM HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Hildenborough Parish Council (HPC) would like to reiterate their comments made in June 2022 (see at end), when an offer again to discuss with us further was made to TMBC. Hildenborough is a village – the parking proposals would introduce a very urban look with far too much paint on the roads and unwelcome parking permitting where none is needed.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS?

1. **Safety** – Dangerous parking on and next to junctions – **Solution:** parking restrictions on junctions and other dangerous places
2. **Mount Pleasant residents unable to park outside their homes** – since Volvo has closed, and their workers no longer needing to park around there. **Solution:** the issue has gone away
3. **Train commuter parking** – there are many fewer train users daily so the issue has reduced significantly and the double yellow lines currently in Noble Tree Road provide passing places. **Solution:** no further parking restrictions required here.
4. **Permit parking** - commuter parking is not considered an issue since the pandemic. Parking permits are deemed unfair to residents who would only be impacted as a result of proposed almost blanket double yellow lines across the village. The proposed areas have never suffered from commuter parking. **Solution:** not required
5. **Commuter coach parking along B245** – **Solution:** Restrictions to 2 hours outside the church and at the top of Riding Lane would address this issue and allow a reasonable waiting time for visitors to the hairdressers, café, Village Hall etc but this would prevent coach commuters using the B245 for all day parking.
6. **Schools** – we are not aware of any issues from residents who live in Riding Lane and Leigh Road where congestion currently works to slow down traffic for around 30 minutes morning and afternoon. Preventing drop offs and pick ups on school roads pushes car users to other roads where new double yellow lines are proposed and then those roads accessing the school via footpaths where there is not currently an issue. **Solution:** Mass road restrictions is not deemed the answer.
7. **On-road charging** unlikely to cover the cost of installation and would push commuters further out to areas without current issues. **Solution:** Not required

HPC is acutely aware that housing in the area is served by narrow roads, inappropriate for today's traffic, but can see that many of the proposed parking changes would create problems for other areas rather than solve ones which have significantly reduced.

One suggestion for Mount Pleasant specifically would be to use open green space, for instance land owned by the housing association. (The Village Green would be inappropriate because of winter flooding which KCC have refused to have drained into their system and is protected Village Green Status.) Further parking could be provided by extending the Parish Council car park in the Recreation Ground. These costs could be covered by TMBC in light of the significant reduction in the parking work costs.

SEE BELOW, THE ORIGINAL RESPONSE ON THESE PROPOSALS TOTALLY IGNORED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

HILDENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL'S RESPONSE ON TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL FOLLOWING THEIR PARKING REVIEW OF THE AREA

Hildenborough Parish Council would like to thank the Borough Council for the proposals for future parking in the village. Generally they welcome the work that has gone into preparing this but have now had time to consider all the various aspects and causal effects and would like to make the following comments in line with their very strong views that Hildenborough should remain very much a village and not become urbanized. Their concerns for the village is to ensure the street scene is as safe, accessible and provides an amenity for residents:

- **Double yellow lines (no waiting at any time)** They welcomed the double yellow line 'no parking at any time' proposals for all shoulders of junctions, particularly at Riding Park/Riding Lane; Mount Pleasant/Riding Lane, all those along Leigh Road and Brookmead. There have been a number minor and more serious accidents as well as numerous near misses at most of these.
- **Commuter Parking:** Although they could see why the commuter restrictions are proposed, they felt that since the investigation was carried out the situation has substantially changed with many commuters working from home, at least on a part time basis and consequently, providing the parking is punctuated with passing spaces they did not feel the need for payment parking as they felt this may deter users of Hildenborough station who may find it more convenient to use the nearby larger stations with better services. The Council greatly value the manned ticket office and refreshment facility at the station and feel if it is underused as a result of street payment for parking they may be lost.
- **Proposals for permit payment:** In general the areas marked as permit payment areas with restrictions on parking between 10am and 2pm did not serve any purpose. The Riding Park area does not suffer from commuter car parkers which makes a permit in this area seem without point. The Mount Pleasant proposed permit area, similar has experienced changes with the closure of the café and garage and consequently parking in this area is not a problem. The Foxbush area is possibly the only area which could be affected by commuter parking, but it was generally felt parking permits would be overkill, whereas a short limited time of no parking would serve the purpose.
- **Limited parking time:** The Council would welcome the proposal for limited parking times along the B245 from the church but would request a 2hr period instead of the proposed 1hr to allow, for instance for visits to the hairdressers or café as well as applying from Monday to Friday only.
- **Other parking restrictions:** Generally the Council welcome the other proposed restrictions on parking, particularly protection for narrow corners, for instance in Half Moon Lane. However, there seems to be absolutely no requirement for them around Ashley Road. Presumably this was to prevent school parents from parking, this would not be a problem as they would be there for a very short length of time. They felt that double yellow lines should be limited to one side of Leigh Road, similarly Stocks Green Road (the opposite side to residential dwellings).
- **Parking bays:** The Council felt that their preference would be for parking bays in busy areas which would address many of the problems, for instance along Riding Lane between Riding Park and Mount Pleasant and would also have the added effect of slowing down vehicles.

The Council is happy to meet with you and discuss the proposals in detail where it is thought local knowledge could supply ideas on small adjustments that would ease or address problems.

They Council is current in discussion with KCC over a 20mph limit outside Hildenborough CEP School in Riding Lane, where it is thought it may not address the problem but better signage and designated parking bays would be of greater benefit.

Sent to Andy Bracey and Andy Edwards on 21 June 2022