

Your Guide to Parking Problems

As parking restrictions seem to be a regular point of contention in the Parish, the Parish Council have provided this guide for you.

Who is responsible for Parking enforcement?

First please note that the Parish Council does not have any legal right to make or enforce parking or traffic restrictions. That legal right has been delegated by Braintree District Council to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) which is based at Colchester District Council and all decision-making processes must be dealt with by that body.

Occasional parking issues and dangerous parking

The Parking Partnership are able to act if a dropped kerb or access is completely obstructed and in such a situation you can contact them via email at parking.central@colchester.gov.uk

Please note that the Parking Partnership will only act in such cases of obstruction

If you see a vehicle that is parked in an obviously dangerous position so as to cause an obstruction you could also refer the matter to the local police who may be contacted by dialling 101.

Parking on grass verges

If a grass verge is owned by a public authority then action may be taken and you should provide details including photos either direct to Braintree District Council who you may contact on 01376 552525 or to the Parish Council greatnotleyclerk@gmail.com although please note that the Parish Council will refer the matter on to the District Council for enforcement action to be taken.

Longer Term parking issues

What Criteria do the NEPP consider when looking to impose parking restrictions?

The NEPP must be satisfied that an issue is serious and meets certain criteria in order to propose a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). The main criteria are –

1. Safety – The NEPP would wish to see evidence of 5 or more Personal Injury collisions within 50 metres of the site in a 3 year period.
2. Congestion – The road network in Essex is set out in priority tiers, tiers one and two plus local roads and the NEPP aim to maintain effective traffic flow on those roads. Its task is primarily to protect arterial routes in the County.

What about other forms of parking?

Although troublesome, short term parking behaviour is considered a lower priority, however the NEPP will consider action in certain cases -

1. Commuter Parking – the parking must be by non-residents and must be sufficiently severe so as to cause serious inconvenience to residents and the suggested parking

control must have substantial support from residents. Also any remedy must not just push the problem on to adjacent roads.

2. Short term parking near a shop or a school – the NEPP would in those circumstances consider limited waiting solutions.
3. Other parking issues may be considered such as the introduction of disabled parking bays.

Is the solution worse than the problem?

For example, would you and your neighbours want to pay for a residents' only permit scheme on your road? Would yellow lines in a location simply move the problem along the road?

The above is a very brief summary of the regulations which can be read in full at the following website address –

<http://www1.parkingpartnership.org/north/about.php>

I think I have grounds to apply – what do I do now?

If you wish to apply for a TRO then please bear in mind that any application needs to show local support. You, therefore, need to show that others in your area (i.e. your immediate neighbours) are supportive of any parking control.

You will also need to show the support of either the Parish Council or a District Councillor but please bear in mind that Councillors cannot support proposals that are contrary to the NEPP policies.

If you wish to address the Parish Council you will need to be willing to attend a Parish Council meeting and speak to Councillors. Although often contact is initially made via the Clerk decisions can only be made at a Parish Council meetings. These are meetings held in public and details of the dates of meetings may be found on the Parish Council website.

Alternatively you will need the support of one of the District Councillors for this ward. Their details may be found on the Parish Council noticeboards and website

www.greatnotley.org.uk

Finally, you need to fill in the application form which can be found on the NEPP website at the following link.

<http://www1.parkingpartnership.org/north/technical.php>

What happens then?

If the NEPP consider that the application may proceed it will need to carry out investigations into the matter. They will also need to consult with the District Councillors for the area and advertise the matter and give consideration to the responses. Only after this process can a decision be made on whether to apply restrictions and if so in what form. Please bear in mind the entire process can take up to 18 months.