

Report on request for resident feedback in relation to proposals for yellow lines at bottom of Cuckoo Way

Issue

At the September meeting you considered complaints from residents regarding parking along Cuckoo Way round the bend to the roundabout by Elsham Drive/Notley Green. In order for the Parish Council to properly consider whether it would be appropriate to apply to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) you agreed that contact should be made with residents to seek their views on the possibility of yellow lines in that location especially as it could simply move the problem to other roads

Actions taken

As agreed, a letter was sent to 20 residents at the bottom of Cuckoo Way, the 69 residents of Wood Way and the four residents of Elsham Drive. A substantial response was received by way of letters, phone calls and emails – all of which are set out for you to read in detail in appendix one.

Particular issues highlighted

There does seem to be a consensus that the parking at the bottom of Cuckoo Way is at the very least inconsiderate and in some cases creates a dangerous situation.

Many allegations were made that the parking at the bottom of Cuckoo Way is either residents of Cuckoo Way or their visitors, contractors or people delivering to those addresses. Although there is parking at the rear of those properties it is often easier to park in the road, especially for larger vehicles. One resident noted that since the letters were sent that parking had dramatically decreased in the location.

It is not entirely clear how much of a problem those using the Country Park are presenting as some of those who responded did not see it as an issue whereas others felt it was an issue only in the summer whilst others felt it was a serious concern and the issue of fishermen was raised.

Many people were critical of the parking charges levied at the Discovery Centre.

It would appear that there are parking issues in Wood Way which are far more substantial than has previously been appreciated and there is a concern that the problems would be exacerbated if yellow lines were in situ at Cuckoo Way. In particular the issue of airport parking which has been seen in other locations in the village now seems to have moved to Wood Way.

Another point of view expressed was that regardless of the impact on others the situation on Cuckoo Way is dangerous although that was not a view universally shared.

One particular issue that came up again and again is parking on the corner of Cuckoo Way and Wood Way and opposite a private drive for around 5 houses at the bottom of Wood Way that has twice presented a challenge for ambulances in recent months and those residents are keen for action to be taken to protect the corner of

Wood Way/Cuckoo Way and the private access way. It would appear that there has been some discussion with the NEPP direct on the issue by one resident.

Another issue frequently highlighted was the speed of vehicles entering or leaving the village at that location.

Some people were in favour of yellow lines but many were not.

A handful of people mentioned a residents' parking zone

Signage and speed bumps were suggested as an alternative to yellow lines.

Another suggestion was to introduce timed parking restrictions similar to the Cuckoo Way/Bridge End Lane triangle to deter longer periods of parking.

Appendix One – responses from residents letter

A copy of the letter given to me by a resident is attached

Telephone

10/10/22 A lady who lives at Cuckoo Way complained that she considers the parking is terrible and is dangerously close to each roundabout. She finds it difficult to leave her driveway which is on a bend as the parked cars mean that oncoming vehicles are difficult to see and on the wrong side of the road. She also considers that people are exceeding the speed limit. She would be in favour of yellow lines and even speed bumps. She considers the parking consists of people who are going to the Country Park

10/10/22 A gentleman who lives on Wood Way complained that the parking at the bottom of Cuckoo Way is an issue but he was far more concerned about the parking on Wood Way and the fact that any yellow lines on Cuckoo Way would make the situation worse on Wood Way. He said that he has difficulties leaving his driveway due to poorly parked cars. He has in the past complained to the North Essex Parking Partnership about dropped kerbs being completely blocked but they have declined to take action. He considers that the Parish Council should consider action in Wood Way.

10/10/22 A gentleman from Petworth Close mentioned that although the parked cars on the bend at Cuckoo Way are in his view dangerous, he believes that some but not all are often people visiting houses at the bottom of Cuckoo Way – either contractors such as window cleaners or visitors and maybe those at the bottom of Cuckoo Way should be advised to be a bit more considerate

11/10/22 A resident from Wood Way rang to say that he does not consider the parking on Cuckoo Way to be especially dangerous and indeed believes that a large proportion of that parking is residents of Cuckoo Way especially the vans that can't be parked in the rear courtyards. He is more concerned about Wood Way and in particular cars impeding access to side private driveways

13/10/22 A resident of Wood Way advised that although parking on Cuckoo Way is an issue and the cars often impact upon visibility as you pull out of Wood Way onto Cuckoo Way, she is more concerned about parking at the bottom of Wood Way. She advised that when her late husband fell ill last year, the ambulance was not able

to pull onto the shared driveway as cars on the other side of the road meant the ambulance could not swing in. Sadly, he faced the indignity of being wheeled out onto Cuckoo Way on a stretcher to be loaded into the ambulance which was distressing at such a difficult time.

17/10/22 A resident of Wood Way felt that speed along Cuckoo Way was more of an issue than parking and considered that much of the parking was residents and their visitors and has noted that since the letter was delivered the parking has dramatically decreased with residents appearing to use the parking areas at the rear of their properties. He considered that the issue of parking by Country Park users is more of an issue in the summer and he has frequently seen people with fishing gear leaving their cars in that location. He mentioned that he was particularly concerned that the entry into the private drive at the bottom of Wood Way is frequently blocked by residents parking on the other side of the road so it is difficult to enter the area and he is aware of difficulties with an ambulance recently. He mentioned that he considered that the County Park should think about having a scheme where there is no parking charge for people collecting people such as when he had to collect a grandchild from football practice and a cheaper parking rate for people who only stay for a short period.

Emails

9/10/22 - Thank you for your recent communication about parking concerns around the junction of Cuckoo Way and Wood Way. We totally agree that there is a problem but the issue also extends to further down Wood Way from the junction with Cuckoo Way.

We have to put up with commercial and private vehicles clogging up Wood Way both day and night but the biggest issue is on holidays and weekends when people park up to and beyond our premises at Wood Way and walk across to the country park rather than pay the parking charges now in place. We are also frequently used as a staging point for vehicles left here while the owners go on holiday from Stansted airport (cheaper to park in our road and get a cab on to the airport than pay car parking fees) longest period we can remember was for Three weeks and we discovered via Instagram the couple were on holiday in Spain!

Some of the parking around our premises which is set on a corner is downright dangerous and seriously needs to be looked at. In our honest opinion we urgently need yellow lines on and around the corner to stop this dangerous parking practice which has already caused accidents and access issues over the last few years.

I do agree that Yellow lines on just Cuckoo Way will cause the issue to move elsewhere (including Wood way).

10/10/22 - In our experience of living at the Cuckoo Way end of Wood Way we find that our road is quite often used as free parking for people going to the Discovery

centre. This causes considerable issues for us residents wanting to park adjacent to our house. I believe that restricting parking on Cuckoo way will only move the problem causing a greater issue in Wood Way.

In my view the best solution would be to make Wood Way and Cuckoo Way a permit parking area where residents would be given permits to allow ourselves and visitors to park. I'm not sure how practical this would be but in my view preferable to a general restriction on Cuckoo Way

10/10/22 We live on Wood Way, and frequently use Cuckoo Way to and from home. Cars are quite often parked at the side of the road, and the bend makes it often impossible to see them till you have turned the corner and are on them. This lack of sighting makes it dangerous, especially if there is a car coming in the opposite direction. I would thoroughly recommend the use of yellow lines on this stretch to eliminate this problem

10/10/22 In response to your letter to residents regarding the above, I agree that yellow lines would move the problem elsewhere. The key issue is that those parking on the bend are creating a dangerous driving environment

- are they breaking the law?

- If so would a period of law enforcement be enough of a deterrent to stop it altogether?

- would a Residents Parking Permit Scheme with each household also issued with a Visitor Permit be an option?

10/10/22 I agree with your comments that whilst parking in this area poses a hazard as vehicles turning in to Cuckoo Way cannot see far around the corner, putting parking restrictions will likely move the parked vehicles elsewhere. I would suggest they will park down Notley Green or either end of Wood Way.

As you are probably aware parking in Wood Way is also increasing which causes obstructions of traffic passing the parked vehicles. However it only seems very busy when everyone is home from work.

Is it a case of the parking allocated to the houses in Cuckoo Way are not being used or the residents having several vehicles and only one or two allocated spaces.

It would be helpful if you could find a way forward for this issue before an accident happens with people and vehicles moving around the parked cars.

10/10/22 I contact you regards the recent request for views regarding the summer parking challenges on the bend of Cuckoo Way and Wood Way. Thank you for the opportunity to provide an opinion on the matter.

I would be disinclined to support yellow lines being introduced on the basis that Elsham Drive also gets busy over the summer and fear, that as the letter suggests, the parking challenge would only be moved elsewhere within the village.

The crux of the issue is the extortionate parking charges that BDC levy for cars parking at the Discovery Centre and visitors to the Country Park seeking to avoid paying the charges by parking elsewhere. In my personal opinion, the best course of action would be for BDC to introduce a reduced parking levy at the Country Park or, better still, to remove the parking charges altogether to allow visitors (that BDC surely wants to encourage to visit the Country Park) to park for free and to continue to pay for use of the facilities on site at the park (high ropes, cafe, artificial football pitch etc.) This approach would appease both residents of the village (especially on Cuckoo Way / Elsham Drive / Wood Way / roads near the pedestrian underpass) and visitors to the Country Park equally. I would support such an approach should this be a potential course of action to alleviate the parking issue.

12/10/22 For over 20 years I have lived along Cuckoo Way. During that time I have seen some pretty horrendous parking and disregard of safety along the section of road in question. My view is that this is not a new issue, this has been around for as long as I remember. However, more recently I'd agree that more cars have parked close to the junction with Wood Way, although couldn't say why this occurs.

Let me provide some context though. Our property has two allocated car parking spots, in a shared car park several houses down from where I live. The residents car park is for five houses and has eight parking spots, but with no visitor parking. My front garden is large enough to be converted with at least one parking space, however current Essex County Council regulations restrict me from applying for a dropped kerb, as the property is within five meters of the pathway, even though it is well wide enough for a car to park length ways (it's over 8 metres). As a result, any visitors we have, have to park directly outside the house, with more than one visitor, several cars have to park on the road. Tesco's car park is for Tesco customers and is limited to three hours, this doesn't always work for my visitors. Generally this doesn't cause an issue even if other residents might feel it's slows up there access in or out of the village.

In addition, we often have cars parked outside our property by those visiting the Country Park. Quite often, when one car parks another two or three rock up. Sometimes more and I have often seen eight or nine cars on hot sunny days or when an event takes place over the road. Interestingly the worse time this happened was earlier this year - the day of the village fete. It was literally cars parked back to back from the mini roundabout, all round to the larger roundabout on Cuckoo Way. I'd suggest cones be placed there next year, as cars were having to reverse back and forth to get passed each other.

The issue which has been raised by a neighbour, I believe relates to parking opposite of the car park entrance (between number 36 and 38). I wholeheartedly agree this is an issue, as we have to drive out whilst looking in both directions around a blind bend. I have received many a glare as cars have to slow up when I'm

pulling out, but that's normally because they are speeding, at 20 mph you should have plenty of time to react as we pull in or out of the car park.

Why is this occurring more now? We use to have our visitors park in Wood Way, as there were several available spots before the first houses on the left. These are now taken by the residents living there, presumably as households increase car numbers (kids getting older, more affluent households?). So it's possible other people who use to park in Wood Way now park on Cuckoo Way, as the ones along Wood Way more often already taken.

What might be the solution? As you say, yellow lines might just push this further into the village. Permit parking? Maybe, but this then costs the residents money. How about a few polite parish council signs? Relatively cheap and it might deter some but suspect others will ignore them. But it is something that should be addressed before an accident occurs.

12/10/22 I live in Cuckoo Way on the bends in question. Although the parking can be a issue with inconsiderate Parkers, the problem is exacerbated by poor quality driving and speed of people coming of the roundabout junction with Notley Green. They come off the roundabout to fast and are not expecting parked cars, traffic calming on that section of cuckoo way would help.

I am not sure if yellow lines will not just cause issues elsewhere. I have noticed the issue is more at the weekend with people not wanting to pay for parking at the Discovery Centre and Tesco issuing fines to overstayers.

What might be an idea is to have a one hour restriction in the middle of the day similar to roads near railway stations. This will stop the long term Parker's but won't affect residents that may have visitor's popping in.

12/10/22 Further to your letter re the issue of parking in Cuckoo Way

We are not trying to get the cars parked to another place we are just trying to get the road cleared of parked vehicles from the Tesco roundabout to the Notley Green roundabout so that we can have a clear vision of the road.

It's not a very long stretch of road but with bends at each end it can very dangerous especially when coming out of our residential parking. I have had many a close shave

13/10/22 Thank you for your letter regarding parking on Cuckoo Way. This has indeed become dangerous, with people parking anywhere there is a space (especially on corners) because they refuse to pay for parking at the Discovery Centre and Tesco parking is limited. It is also particularly unfair on the residents.

Please take this matter further, for the sake of everyone on Great Notley, who have to put up with this along with the constant stream of boy racers with noisy cars using the bypass as a race track without any ramifications at all 24/7

13/10/22 We are in receipt of your hand delivered letter (of earlier this week) regarding concerns over parking in the vicinity of Cuckoo Way and the junction of Wood Way, Great Notley. You ascertain to seek the views of affected residents for possible representation to the North Essex Parking Partnership for solutions to resolve what can only in our opinion be considered careless and dangerous parking.

We are not ones to usually moan and groan but the situation has become intolerable and no longer is this the lovely place to live like it was. We welcome your approach to gather views from residents affected.

With those issues in mind:

- **The parking problems are not and have not just been, isolated to the roads you mention.**
- **If yellow lines were to be introduced along that part of Cuckoo Way it could simply move the problem to other roads within the development.**
- **Frustratingly the problem is already in other areas of the site and has been tolerated with gritted teeth for more than 18 months with School holidays posing an even bigger volume of haphazard and inconsiderate parking in the roads you mention with the overspill in Elsham Drive!**
- **We are flabbergasted that residents in Elsham Drive have not witnessed nor been party to serious accidents before now! I attach a couple of photos of how we often find ourselves having to negotiate exit from our driveway. Drivers of these vehicles don't care - they only have their own agenda in mind. Unfortunately the most dangerous parked car (I did not think to photograph) - two vehicles, both with cycle rack trailers parked partially blocking our exit and seriously compromised our visibility, took 4 bikes from their trailers and went off cycling for 4 hours!!! Clearly not wishing to pay for parking in the Country Park.**
- **Often large vans park for considerable time (not drop offs) in close proximity to our driveway and block the view of any vehicle coming down Elsham Drive, out of Wood Way and/or Petworth Close - often cars come at speeds in excess of speed restrictions for the site.**

Your letter has prompted us to think of the wider issues - some are quick fixes others need more serious consideration:

- **Upon entrance into Cuckoo Way the speed limit is totally obscured on the right hand side and partially obscured on the left - see both photos attached. **Remedy: to have the trees trimmed back for a clear view and thus could not be challenged if anyone were to be caught in****

excess of 20 mph. The trees on Cuckoo Way also need some trim back as they distract and overhang the pavement/road.

- **Vehicles leaving the A131 Great Notley Bypass and taking exit toward Tesco cannot clearly see the 30 mph speed limited sign as it is slightly obscured and vehicles frequently are very much in excess of that speed as they approach the mini roundabout. See attached photos of vehicles. **Remedy:** Requires monitoring but also suggest the barrier metal fencing be continued to the end of the road or at least to the concrete fork in the road toward Tesco - helping to provide added safety precautions for children, dogs and pedestrians**
- **We strongly believe that yellow lines and raised cobbles/sleeping policeman in Cuckoo Way would address the parking issues and also slow down traffic and aid the speed restriction into site. Would also plead this be duplicated in Elsham Drive. The hedges to front of both 1 and 2 Elsham Drive need cutting down on a more regular basis - 2 times a year is not enough for clear visibility on to and from the roundabout on Cuckoo Way from both these driveways, particularly with the continued careless parking issues. We would personally welcome yellow lines on Elsham Drive on the grounds of safety. Alternative suggestions might be to make the site permit holders only - this would need thinking about how this would be administered etc, maybe this be open to all residents for ideas?**

14/10/22 Further to receiving your letter regarding parking from the mini roundabout at Tesco to Wood Way. I have noticed the increased parking on the bend to which you refer and it does become difficult at times to negotiate over taking of parked cars when you are blind on the bend to oncoming traffic.

I am concerned that if an application was submitted for yellow lines at Cuckoo Way it would simply move the problem along and increasing parking at Elsham and Petworth which are the next roads along causing its own problems at the mini roundabout by the Manor House.

16/10/22 I received a letter regarding the parking on Cuckoo Way. I live in Wood Way so use the stretch of road you are referring to regularly. Cars are parked there far too often and more often than not parked dangerously - I have come close on a number of occasions to having an accident due to being on the wrong side of the road on a bend because somebody has parked dangerously. My wife and daughter both have exactly the same issues. In my opinion it is only a matter of time before an accident takes place and action is long overdue.

17/10/22 In response to your recent letter I would like to add the following observations. Parking on the bends in Cuckoo Way has become more frequent over recent years. I have lived here for 21 years. There is regular parking either by or on the kerb, particularly by the junction with Wood Way. This often also involves cars parking at the end of Wood Way by the junction over the dropped kerb causing

problems for those with push chairs, buggies and wheelchairs, as well as restricting emergency vehicular access for 2-10 Wood Way, as has happened with ambulance access in the past. There are often incidents of cars undoubtedly driving in excess of the 20mph limit around these bends which makes the pinch point of parked vehicles even more of a hazard due to impeded visibility and I am sure it is only a matter of time before a serious collision occurs. I would even consider other traffic calming measures such as speed humps at the junction or on its approach from Tesco. Yellow lines, as you say, may well push the issue further along the side streets causing access issues to private driveways. A lot of those who park there do so for the Discovery Park. I don't know what they charge for parking and I know Tesco only have a 3 hour limit on their parking too.

24/10/22 Further to your letter requesting views on the parking issue in Cuckoo Way between the Tesco mini roundabout junction and the Wood Way junction, the parking of vehicles here is becoming more than just a nuisance. It is dangerous, because the bend in the road is such that it is not possible to see vehicles coming in the opposite direction when trying to get passed these parked vehicles. It can only be a matter of time before there is a collision or worse. The concern that to put yellow lines along this section of road would merely move the problem to other roads is valid, however this is a busy junction, the main artery into the village and is potentially dangerous to allow parking to continue there. In addition, one of the reasons people park there is because it is near to the entrance to the park. I therefore am very much in favour of parking restrictions here. I also think that Essex County Council should be lobbied to consider reducing their parking charges for the Country Park, as this is the main cause of the problem. The charges are very high and act as a deterrent- people need to be parked for several hours to enjoy the park and the charges are discouraging.

27/10/22 There is occasionally inconsiderate parking on Cuckoo Way near Wood Way, however this also occurs in Wood Way and Elsham Drive with vehicles parked right on junctions. There is in fact inconsiderate parking throughout Great Notley. If the council wanted to stop this then the whole village would need to be yellow lined and full time enforcement employed. Although inconvenient, I don't see this as much of a safety issue as the speed limit is only 20mph after all. I suspect in most cases it is residents cars, although removing or reducing the parking charges at the country park may help.

30/10/22 Thank you for your letter concerning the above. I do feel that the road in question is an issue, not only for residents but for general traffic. During covid, this area was a huge problem with people parking all the way along this road and I witnessed a situation that could have led to a head on collision due to the blind spot of the bend. I live in Wood Way and unfortunately we also have issues along this road too where people are parking to head off to the country park, which is frustrating for residents and also causes congestion along one side of the road.

As much as I consider your comments on the traffic moving elsewhere, I do feel that

this part of Cuckoo Way is a danger point and something really does need to be done.

31/10/22 To me there is a clear and urgent requirement to put double yellow lines along most of Cuckoo Way between the Tesco roundabout and the large roundabout with Eslham Drive and Notley Green. Cars and vans park dangerously and selfishly on the bend and restrict the sight of oncoming drivers. In some cases these vehicles are parked on the pavement, restricting pedestrian access alongside them. There is no safe place for people to park along this very busy stretch of road and all parking should be stopped.

I recognise this may move the issue elsewhere, but that is not a reason to do nothing, in my opinion.

In fact, there are many locations in and around the parish where selfish parking creates dangerous conditions for other motorists and for pedestrians.

Examples include (but are not restricted to):

- Cuckoo Way, on and near the bend at the intersection with Charlecote Road
- Cuckoo Way, on and near the bend at the intersection with Hidcote Way
- Cuckoo Way, in between the two mini roundabouts at the junctions with Sheringham Drive and Grantham Avenue. Not the only place this happens but people park right on top of the mini roundabouts and in a solid line between the two junctions, leaving only a single lane for traffic to pass and that with very limited visibility at either end.
- Various locations where people park right on top of a junction or roundabout, or even on a roundabout (i.e. in and around the roundabout on Hidcote Way).

Some of this selfish parking will be outsiders wanting to avoid the parking charges at the Discovery Centre, but much of it is residents who are just being lazy or selfish. For example, all the houses on Cuckoo Way between Sheringham Drive and Grantham Avenue have parking behind them, but residents are just too lazy to walk around so instead block Cuckoo Way for everyone else.

Lots (and lots) of double yellow lines might be unsightly, but frankly may be the only answer.

The Highway Code is pretty clear where people should and should not park, but sadly unless they are prevented from doing so by double yellow lines then they will park wherever they want.

And one final point ... people continue to park on the pavement and double yellow lines on Notley Green outside the Surgery. Including van drivers delivering pharmaceuticals to the Surgery. This is really poor considering how many young children and elderly residents use the pathed area outside the Surgery.

Painting lots of yellow lines around the parish and employing a couple of traffic wardens could generate a pretty decent income until people start to park more responsibly.