

Residents response

I have just completed the Council's parking consultation but, as always, these pro formas fail to gather the detail Councillors need to take into account. So, a few issues not picked up by the questionnaire.

I am principally concerned with resident parking in my street, Queens Terrace. It is a big issue. I have two resident permits but have not been able to park in my street for a week. I think these proposals will make that situation worse.

1. Conflict with other policies.

We participated in a consultation on the seafront. The Council rejected the glass box restaurant at the Horizon but I understood SAC accepted the other recommendations of the architects - pedestrianisation, removing traffic, narrowing roads etc. The current parking plans around the esplanade and surrounding streets are in absolute conflict with those plans. The former putting greens will not become the family friendly areas envisaged if the esplanade is a car park.

2. Cycle

The suggestion that SAC would REMOVE cycle lanes along the esplanade and prioritise parking is perverse. The suggestion of something??? for cycles is so lacking in detail to be meaningless. SAC should be looking into the exclusive use of the esplanade by pedestrians and cyclists. Not a bigger car park. The whole parking strategy fails to take account of tackling climate change, restricting polluting vehicles, improving public transport, cycle opportunities and clean air zones for pedestrians. The seafront and surrounding areas should be in the vanguard of all of that. If I was a councillor I would be worried about SAC's current direction of travel when world attention will be on Scotland during COP26

3. Resident parking.

The parking consultation attempts two different things, one controlling access in the commercial areas of the town centre and the other enabling local residents to park close to their homes in residential streets. These are totally different and need more differentiation.

In relation to resident parking-

- . The proposal to allow non permit holders to park for 1 hour in resident zones will remove considerable opportunity for residents to make use of their permits. It could make it impossible.
- . The existing 10 - 5 and proposed 11-6 hours for permit holders in residential areas makes no sense. It is impossible to get parked close to home returning from work, hospital appointments etc. Other authorities have resident zones 24 hours. The 10-5 or 11-6 restrictions are an issue for town centre, not for residential streets
- . The removal of restrictions on a Sunday makes no sense . Residents still have to park on Sundays. This is a commercial town centre issue intruding into resident parking again.

4. Disabled residents.

I have a wheelchair user in the family. Some thoughts...

- . Because of previous parking difficulties SAC suggested marking out a disabled parking place in front of our home. I didn't think that would work since ANY blue badge holder could then park in that space. I would prefer an effective resident only permit scheme. There are already several disabled parking spaces in Queens Terrace. Will they remain? With what consequences for the parking plans?
- . Blue badges can be abused. You recall the vehicles "garaged" at the bottom of Charlotte Street for several years. Will the current plans prevent that?

5 Off road parking.

I have access to some off-road parking. I now never use it. Why? Because vehicles frequently park along the double yellow lines in Queens Terrace Lane blocking my access. I have got stuck behind the garage gates too many times. In Glasgow offending vehicles would get towed. Here, no-one has ever dealt with it. The introduction of parking on the esplanade opposite is likely to make that circumstance more frequent. Does SAC have a plan to facilitate me in parking off-road?

6. Technology

'Virtual' permits. Grand in theory. Will it work in practice?

7. Costs

SAC should resist the temptation to charge excessively for parking permits for residents while applying very modest parking charges to visitors. We already pay Council Tax.

8 Camper vans

Where do they go? And what stops them parking anywhere?

That's probably enough.