



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the Community Safety Committee will be held in the Council Chamber 28, Fore Street, Wellington, on Monday 13 July 2015 at 6.00p.m..

AGENDA

1. Appointment of Chairman

2. Apologies

3. Parking at Longforth Road Car Park (ASDA)

Councillor Thorne has asked if it would be possible to erect bollards in front of the disabled parking bays that adjoin the footpath into the ASDA store. He feels that there is a problem in as much as there is nothing to stop vehicles from accidentally driving beyond the marked bay and up on to the footpath (the pavement has a dropped kerb – presumably for the benefit of wheelchair users). This causes a potential danger to pedestrians who are using the pavement to access the store.

Following the request I contacted TDBC for its views. The Highway Inspector inspected the site and responded as follows:

“The pathway from the edge of the disabled bays to the Supermarket wall is 3 metres.

The upstand from the edge of the disabled bay to the edge of the pathway is 45mm. This upstand is quite pronounced (The Highway Inspector drove his van up onto it, and you can certainly feel it)

As you can see from Photograph 2 vehicles already protrude onto the pathway. Drivers appear to normally drive “into” the spaces rather than reverse in, and as you can see from photograph 2 they are confronted by a rather large wall.

If we were to go down the route of placing something to delineate the parking bays from the pathway, we would have to install 8 of them (one in front of each parking bay that abuts up to the pathway). I think they would have to be metal posts and they would have to be high enough for a driver to see them from the driver’s seat of their vehicle.

There is also a maintenance issue, in that, undoubtedly the posts would be driven into or reversed into and damaged, there would then be the costs associated with replacing them on, I think a fairly regular basis (having seen what is done in Taunton town centre car parks)

I would recommend not to go down the route of placing posts along the pathway for the following reasons.

- 1) There is already an indication that the parking bay ends and the footpath starts (the 45mm upstand)
- 2) 8 tall posts would cause clutter on the pathway and would undoubtedly be used to padlock bicycles etc. to them.
- 3) There would be an ongoing maintenance issue, in that the posts would be driven into and would need replacing.
- 4) Posts would become an additional piece of street furniture that would need to be avoided by pedestrians”

This report was considered and supported by the Car Parks Manager who has decided not to install metal posts on the footpath for the reason given above.

Councillor Thorne disagrees with the thinking presented by TDBC saying:

“I’m not sure they have properly grasped the nature of the hazard.

The wall facing drivers as they park, and the upstand from the parking surface to the pavement is not the issue. It’s the fact that sooner or later, a motorist is going to accidentally put their foot on the accelerator instead of the brake, or engage first gear rather than reverse, just as somebody is walking in front of them - and the consequences of it are potentially serious.

They talk about 'metal posts' and I’m not sure where that idea has come from. What I had in mind was something like shown in the attached two photos.

I don’t believe pedestrians having to avoid 'street furniture' like this will be any more difficult than at present where they have to avoid car bonnets protruding over the pavement.

The solid nature of such bollards should help to minimise maintenance, and if they are worried about padlocking bikes to the bollards, then we can look at providing a bike park - after all, they’re providing one for the new Weavers Arms development!”

Councillor Thorne has asked if, in the first instance this matter can be considered by the the Community Safety Committee

4. CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (No Drinking Order)

Members will recall that at the June Council meeting Scott Weetch, the Community and Client Services Manager of TDBC and WSDC was present and consulted the Council on the possibility of amending the existing ‘No Drinking Order’ for Wellington. The Order currently in place was somewhat anachronistic as the boundary was drawn before some housing developments had been completed. It covered some areas of the town and not others.

There were several options for the Council to consider:

- Do nothing – it was not necessary to do anything until October 2017 under the new legislation (Anti-Social Behaviour and Policing Act 2014)
- ‘Proactively’ do nothing. Accept that the current area had been in place for 12 years and probably did the job (however, it did go right down the middle of Dobree Park which meant that only part of that area was covered by the Order).
- Extend/amend the area, accepting that the area still needed to be policed

- Extend/amend the activities that were covered, with the same caveat (Taunton had included any intoxicating substance to combat legal high use in public)

Council agreed that:

- (a) the activities and the area covered be extended and amended and include “legal highs”;
- (b) the Community Safety Committee consider in detail the area that was to be included in the Order

5. Gipsies and Travellers

Members may be aware that there has been a recent encampment of travellers on the Beech Grove field (between the Recreation Ground and the Athletic Ground). The travellers moved on after a few days. However, one thing that has occurred to us is the fact that they ended up in a playing field in the middle of a town. They had obviously “scouted” the site before arriving. I have subsequently spoken to the County Council’s Senior Enforcement Officer (Planning, Rights of Way, Gypsies & Travellers) to ask if, in his experience, this was a trend that is developing with travellers. If it is, then we are going to have to be more vigilant and more security conscious in respect of our playing fields and sports pitches all of which have fairly unfettered access at the moment.

The officer has said that the location of gypsies and traveller depends on the type of group involved. He feels that in this case, the travellers will have had some idea of a number of locations in the area. He also feels that any open space is always vulnerable to this type of incursion and that owners of any such land should always be aware of the possibility of it being accessed by travellers.

For information, if it involves land owned by the County Council (as this did) then it would be its responsibility to deal with it, if it was TDBC land it would be its responsibility and if the land were privately owned it would be up to the landowner to take any necessary action.

Greg Dyke
Town Clerk
7 July 2015