

## Oliver's Battery – issues of parking

This issue concerns a small part of Oliver's Battery Road South (OBRS) from its junction with Badger Farn Road to the north and Old Kennels Lane to the south. Currently parking is permitted on two sections of OBRS during the day. There are also parking bays at the front of the shops/businesses both the east and west side. There also appears to be parking behind which may be reserved for the flats above the shops.

OBRS is a busy road as it is the main route in and out of our community both for vehicles and pedestrians. There are at times some really large vehicles which come up Old Kennels Lane (OKL) during the day, many of these may be related to the local farm. Otherwise, car traffic is related to local residents and visitors to the shops/businesses.

Pedestrian traffic is particularly busy for school opening and closing times. All roads are subject to a 30mph speed limit.

Approaching OBRS from OKL is via a blind bend. The existing parking restrictions (yellow lines) allow parking on the east side of the road very close to this junction. The visit of a traffic warden or police officer might be considered a rarity so control or monitoring of parking does not appear to happen.

There are also two roads which feed into OBRS from the east: Compton Way and Downlands Road. In addition, there is St Marks church which is a busy community hub but has no provision for parking.

Continuous lines of parked cars on the east side of OBRS mean traffic entering our community has to be on the right-hand side of the road, opposing oncoming traffic. Passing one or two parked cars is usually not a problem but when it becomes four, six or eight, then difficulties arise, especially at busy times. My observations one early morning revealed a lot of shouting and horn blowing rather than give and take. Clearly those leaving the community were in a hurry.

We surely need to support our local businesses and access and parking for them should be a priority. However, we might want to dissuade those who want to park all day in OBRS. Might this be due to some who park here and take the bus into town? There also has to be parking for those who work at the businesses.

The Council has considered extending the yellow lines at the south end of OBRS. This is quite a slow process involving lots of consultation. The question might be asked if single yellow line here are correct or whether parking should be stopped 24/7 because of the blind bend.

Fortunately, for many hours of the day, traffic is light and problems do not arise. However, car ownership in this community is not declining (the change from petrol to electric does not affect numbers). It may be vehicle movements are growing. It also needs to be noted, in common with most of Winchester, there is no provision for cycle lanes.

Recommendations:

1. Firstly, there needs to be a discussion, is this an issue which needs action or not.
2. If action is needed, it would seem sensible to consult all our local businesses and the church to identify need.
3. Likewise close consultation with frontagers should happen. For example, do they all have adequate parking for visitors.
4. Does the community have a view and should it be consulted for example by a questionnaire in the newsletter.
5. Should there be timed parking restrictions for daytime use and if so, how would that be policed.
6. Are there any issues/problems not listed in this document that should be considered.

Tony Gaster

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024

