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Committed
Services

David Parr
Chief Executive
Municipal Building
Widnes
WA8 7QF

Mr J White
16 Cronton Lane
Widnes
WA8 5AJ

09 June 2014

Re: Proposed Waiting Restrictions, Cronton lane Widnes

Dear Mr Parr,

I am writing with regards to a letter I received from Halton Borough Council dated 30th May 2014, informing me of a proposal by the Council to implement "At Any Time" waiting restrictions on Cronton Lane.

I was informed in the letter that any objections to the proposals, together with the grounds on which they are made, must be sent in writing to you, by 04th July 2014.

Whilst I welcome and appreciate the fact that the Council has taken seriously the concerns of some residents about parking along Cronton Lane, I believe the proposal to introduce "At Any Time" waiting restrictions to be a gross over reaction and akin to using a very big mallet to crack a rather small nut.

I understand one of the most common complaints from homeowners along this stretch of road is to do with motorists who park across driveways and I can appreciate from my own experience how annoying this is. However it is a relatively rare occurrence and I am sure there are more appropriate alternatives to consider which tackle the issue of parking, whilst at the same time avoids causing significant other problems for homeowners and businesses along this road e.g. a white line across the driveways or a resident parking permit which can also be given to family and friends when they visit.

I have set out below a list of my objections and my reasons for them:

- 1) Any problems caused by motorists parking along Cronton Lane most often occur between 5.00pm and 7.00pm Monday – Friday. At all other times of the day and night there are relatively few, if any, issues caused by the parking of motorists.
- 2) I believe the main complaint from residents on Cronton Lane which instigated the consultation, was concerned with the inconsiderate parking of motorists when visiting the shops on the junction of Cronton Lane and Norlands Lane e.g. parking across driveways. I do not believe the introduction of "Any Time Parking" restrictions will deter motorists who are responsible for the issues raised by residents from continuing to park in the way that they do now. The existing parking restrictions certainly don't deter most motorists from parking where they want to i.e. along the double yellow lines and I fail to see how "At Any Time" parking restrictions will fare any better. I have photographs which clearly show this to be the case and I am sure a Council officer would be able to determine this

for him/herself, were s/he to visit the junction between 5pm and 7 pm on a weekday.

- 3) In the years I've lived on Cronton Lane, I've yet to see any enforcement of the existing parking regulations along the road and I don't believe new restrictions would be any better enforced. This isn't a criticism of the police, as they would need to have a police officer on duty each day between 5.00pm and 7.00pm to have any effect; and that would be an unrealistic expectation. I am happy to be challenged on this assumption, for example perhaps you could tell me how many traffic penalty notices have been issued by Cheshire Police to motorists of cars parked illegally along this road over the last 2 years.
- 4) I believe the only people who will be affected by the introduction of an "At Any Time" waiting restriction are the home owners along Cronton Lane; myself included. For reasons I have previously given, it will be mostly the homeowners on Cronton Lane who abide by the "Any Time Waiting" restriction even though it is not the home owners who cause the problems. So although the Council will be seen to have taken steps to address the residents' complaint about parking, those steps will in fact have done nothing to resolve them.
- 5) The proposed restriction would prevent visitors e.g. family and friends from parking outside the homes when visiting. Visitors would instead have to park somewhere else, such as outside the homes of residents where the restrictions did not apply e.g. further along Cronton Lane or on Norlands Lane. This could potentially cause those home owners to complain to the council, so starting the process all over again.
- 6) Any motorist visiting the shops who does abide with the parking restrictions is likely to seek out an alternative place to park and will no doubt choose the closest next available road e.g. Norlands Lane. This could potentially cause the home owners along this road to complain to the council, so starting the process all over again.
- 7) The shops along Cronton Lane are regarded as a much valued community resource by people living in the area and the introduction of "Any Time Parking" restrictions could adversely affect their trade. Times are hard enough for small businesses and I am sure the Council would not want to be seen to be putting obstacles in their way; even if it was inadvertent.

I hope that my objections are given serious consideration by the Council before a final decision is made on this matter and that the option which is chosen has the full support and backing of both the residents and businesses along Cronton Lane.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John White', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

John White (Mr)