

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 July 2021 16:19

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Parking in Common Hill

Dear [REDACTED]

I have been waiting to gather all the information and letters of support from residents and our councillor before presenting you with our application that we intend to send to NEPP. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I wonder if you can help us in getting the support of [REDACTED] the Town Council. The residents have gone along with the Town Councils wishes and we are not asking for very much in the way of change here.

The North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) who regulate parking schemes in the area require an application to be made via their website which require 75% of the residents backing (Which we have) and the support of a local Councillor.

Please find below the details of what we are suggesting:

Details of scheme and application:

Extract from NEPP website re applications:

*(Application must show):*

*That there is a genuine proven parking safety, congestion or social need before your request can be considered.*

*To evidence local support:*

*This can be from your Local Councillor, County Councillor, a Town or Parish Council.*

*Failure to evidence that support for an application is in place from a councillor will result in your application not being considered.*

*For a new parking scheme:*

*A minimum 75% support from other residents living in the street.*

NEPP application content

(The layout is in the same format as the application form)

Brief description of suggested scheme:

- 1) Additional permit parking spaces to be added to existing permit bays on Common Hill, Saffron Walden, alongside the town common opposite the houses of permit holders on Common Hill or nearby on Ashdon Road.
- 2) Residents with permits also allowed to park in the Common Car park with no charge to allow flexibility.

Describe the issues faced and the causes of the problem:

Saffron Walden Town Council requested that residents should cease parking on common land, drives and pathways in front their properties in Common Hill despite having done so for over 40 years and believing that they had the legal right to do so. The residents agreed to accept parking permits to park in spaces on the road next to the common.

So where as before we had free parking outside our homes we now pay for the privilege of parking on a busy road with the associated dangers and inconvenience that brings.

The existing spaces are not sufficient for the needs of the residents. There is no parking nearby which is suitable for loading/unloading or leaving a vehicle for long periods. Unfortunately, since the permit system was put into place the existing 8 places are not sufficient for our parking needs due to residents returning from a prolonged period working abroad requiring spaces and an increase in households in Common Hill, due to one of the houses being split into two properties. In addition, there is an ongoing problem with illegal parkers using up spaces.

There are 8 properties in Common Hill and as most households have two or more cars parking is very limited. 8 permit spaces are not sufficient. It would be a great shame if residents once again were in a situation where they had to start parking directly outside their homes again. A more flexible approach by including the Common Hill car park in the scheme would be a great help to all.

What is the solution:

We would like to request a minimum of another 4 spaces on Common Hill or Ashdon Road extending the bays that already exist. Also to add more flexibility permit holders should be able to use the Common Car Park free of charge or alternatively be able to park in the restricted time bays on common hill without restriction.

What is to be achieved by the scheme:

- 1) Reduce the need for residents to park on the town common outside their houses or on the path and drives in front of their properties.
- 2) Make loading and unloading safer and more convenient.
- 3) Increase security as cars will be parked within view.
- 4) Mitigate the loss of previous areas used for parking.

What evidence is there that this is needed:

- 1) It is clear that the loss of free parking is a sore point for the residents and causes them problems.
- 2) The permit holders reporting that they are unable to park in the residents bays and being forced to park some distance away.
- 3) Only paid short term parking is available nearby and this often full as the town becomes busier with increased housing and visitors.
- 4) Over 75% of residents support the proposal, see letters of support attached.

I have the required number of letters of support and just require a message from a councillor to be able to forward the application.

Yours sincerely,

on behalf of the residents

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