Parking Scheme Request
Castle Street, Farnham

Please find the proposed changes to the current parking restrictions applicable on Castle Street and the signatures of many of the residents whom this affects, who agree and would like to pursue our request.

Description Of Problem

By the council's definition, Permit parking is intended to help residents and their guests find somewhere to park during the days and times the scheme is in operation. During those times, only vehicles displaying a valid resident permit or a valid visitor permit are allowed to park in the permit areas/permit parking bays. This makes it more likely that permit holders will be able to find somewhere to park, although it cannot guarantee a space.

The current parking allocation on Castle Street allows for approximately 33 Permit Only Parking (08:00 - 20:00), with another 58 being dual-use permits and pay and display, with a total of 91 spaces.

Approximately 70-100 homes on the street without off-road parking are entitled to two permits per household. Given that multiple properties adjoining the road with the same allocation are not included in these figures, we estimate that on Castle Street alone, there could be over 140-200 vehicles attempting to park in the 91 spaces; this is before visitors to the town utilise the pay & display bays.

Given the small number of permit holder parking compared to the comparatively large number of pay and display, those who work during the day will often return home to occupied spaces. Any general life errands in the evening, such as shopping, going to the gym or seeing friends often, will mean no parking when getting home.

Those visiting the town to enjoy the restaurants would be encouraged to use one of the many car parks within a short walking distance of the street.

Whilst we can appreciate that several places are covered under the Zone A parking areas, it is impractical for many of our older residents and those with mobility issues to walk long distances to their properties when the spaces outside their homes are occupied by unauthorised vehicles. With further housing developments planned, there will likely be a high number of A zone permits issued in the future, only compounding the problem.

I have often informed members of the public who park in spaces which do not have permits that they are liable to get a ticket, the most common responses are; that they do not know due to inadequate signage or that they will risk getting a parking fine as they can see their vehicle from the pub or restaurant.

As part of the Farnham Infrastructure Plan, we have already seen many spaces removed outside sections of the street, most notably outside the Nelson Arms, which now has five spaces set aside for patron seating, plus another five at the lower end of the road. And there are further plans to reduce the number of available spaces under the proposed designs. We understand that the arrangements for this project will take time and will inherently require much planning; however, we would like to see our concerns actioned before this work starts. As you can appreciate, the Infrastructure Plan is many years

away from starting and should not be impacted by these requests, which do not require years of planning or excessive financial investment.

We have captured what we believe is the current state of parking space available on the street below:

Upper Castle Street
33 Zone A, 08:00-20:00
5 currently blocked off outside The Nelson

Lower Castle Street
58 Pay and Display & Zone A, 08:00 - 20:00
2 Disabled Zone A Parking Spaces
3 currently blocked-off outside Bills
2 currently blocked off outside Hamptons

Estimates to a total of 91 available, of which only 33 are Zone A only, 58 Pay & Display, 2 disabled, and 10 blocked off by businesses.

Statement Of Request

We want to request that the following points be formally considered:

Primary Request

- On Castle Street only, a change of permit parking restriction times to 24 Hours, 7 Days a week, Zone A residents parking.
- Updated signage to show the new restrictions in more visually prominent places.

Additional Request
- Removal of pay and display ticket zones and machines.
- Review of parking enforcement measures, including officer patrols schedule and times, as these may require an increase to enforce effectively.

We believe that by implementing these measures, there will be a noticeable improvement in the following:

- Improve the lives and well-being of the residents on Castle Street.
- Reduce the volume of traffic and congestion on the street,
    - Particularly by residents circling the one-way to find a parking space.
- Increased revenue generated by penalty charge notices and received by the council.
- Increased revenue generated by surrounding car parks and received by the council.

It may be that not all of these points can be actioned or met, though we would like to bring these to the council's attention. If only part of this can be completed, we would greatly appreciate finding common ground that benefits all involved parties. If tied in with the changeover of the parking enforcement company, these measures could provide gains for all involved.