

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR MELTON**

**20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

**RESPONSE TO PETITION: REQUEST FOR PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON**  
**NORTHFIELD CLOSE, MELTON MOWBRAY, LEICESTERSHIRE**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

**Purpose of Report**

1. Following receipt of a petition presented at the Melton Highway Forum on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016, this report advises the forum of the parking issues on Northfield Close and provides an evaluation of the issues raised.

**The Petition**

2. The petition, with 19 signatures, states:
3. *I am writing to express the concerns of the residents of Northfield Close, Melton Mowbray about the parking of cars on this road on market days and days when there are organised events at the cattle market.*
4. *The residents at the end of this cul de sac are all required to be over 50 years old as part of their tenancy contract, consequently there are a large proportion of the residents who have mobility problems and serious illnesses that can require urgent medical attention.*
5. *They believe the effect of any obstruction could be critical to the wellbeing of these residents and are requesting that we urgently look at putting parking restrictions in practice on at least Tuesdays as are on Laycock Avenue and Elgin Drive.*

**Background**

6. Northfield Close is a residential road in Melton Mowbray with its access off of Scalford Road; it is a fairly narrow no through road with limited space available for on street parking.
7. The road width is approximately 5m, 15m from its junction with Scalford Road it narrows to 3m for a short length. Here vehicles give and take with no parking occurring.
8. With the proximity of Northfield Close to the Cattle Market which occurs every Tuesday, an increased need for on street parking has been evident over a number of years.
9. To help avoid obstruction, dangerous parking and to keep traffic flowing on the surrounding estate roads of Laycock Avenue and Elgin Drive, parking restrictions have been implemented on which makes it an offence to park on Tuesdays from 8am till 6pm.
10. The restrictions do not cover Northfield Close and the top end of Laycock Avenue from its junction with Wycliffe Avenue. Our records show that the restrictions were implemented in 2009.

11. It is unclear why these roads were not included; however if objections are received from local residents during a consultation period then traffic restrictions do not proceed. This may account for these particular areas being excluded from the parking restrictions.

### **Site observations;**

12. Officers made site visits both on a non-market day during November and twice on a market day in November and Mid December.
13. On the non-market day there was some on street parking with no obstruction.
14. On market days in November the on street parking still occurred, with two and three additional vehicles. No obstruction or footway parking was observed.
15. On the site visit in December, the roads around the market were extremely busy but no inconsiderate parking was observed.

### **Conclusions**

16. The type of situation described over parking on market days can potentially restrict access for residents however, we did not observe any obstructions when undertaking site visits. Unfortunately at times poor parking can occur on numerous streets across the County.
17. Officers do work closely with the emergency services to ensure that they are able to carry out their duties, with our records showing that Northfield Close has not been identified as a concern site.
18. Where parking is causing a hazard or an obstruction it should be that only the Police have the powers to enforce.

### **Recommendations**

19. Looking at the evidence for the on-street parking, parking restrictions are not considered to be justified at this current time.
20. Any further investigation to the parking in Northfield Close and its neighbouring streets could be identified if the environment changes.
21. With the cattle market potentially expanding in the future, at this point further extension of the waiting restrictions would be investigated.
22. There is also a wider transport strategy being undertaken in Melton which will look at traffic issues and congestion across Melton Mowbray. The study would include parking assessments to all of the roads within the town centre.

### **Officer to Contact**

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