

Review of Parking Scheme

1. Introduction

This paper has been prepared for the Environment and Planning Committee (PEC) meeting on Wednesday 1 May 2024, to assess the effectiveness of the Cringleford Parking Scheme, six months after its implementation.

2. Background

In 2018 and 2019 several meetings were held between Cringleford Parish Council (CPC), Norfolk County Council (NCC) and South Norfolk Council (SNC) to discuss the numerous complaints received from residents regarding on-road cars parked in Colney Lane, Intwood Road, and associated roads. At the first of these meetings (November 2018) representatives of parishioners from both locations were also invited, to put their opinions forward.

The main issues raised were;

1 – The volume of parking on Intwood Road, caused by users of Cringleford Business Centre (CBC), making the road dangerous to drive on, and causing serious issues for residents trying to leave their driveways by car.

2 – The volume of parking on Colney Lane and Gurney Lane, caused by staff from the hospital and UEA, making the road dangerous to drive on, and causing serious issues for residents trying to leave their driveways by car

Separately CPC had approached CBC to enquire whether their parking spaces could be better distributed, and were told this would not be possible.

As a result of this SNC agreed to carry out a survey of both the areas in question and all residents and then consider options available. It was made clear over the course of the meetings that no option would suit **all** residents, and that parking permit schemes would not be possible due to the number of properties in Cringleford with their own driveways.

In February 2019 no-parking zones were proposed by SNC as a suitable scheme with no ongoing costs. It was agreed that 51% of those who responded would need to support the scheme.

In May 2019 maps were circulated with the proposed zones, with pay and display areas added to Colney Lane to fund the traffic warden. It was made clear by NCC that these were the only options available and, if not accepted, the parking problems would continue indefinitely. CPC later approved the scheme. £10k of CIL was put aside for funding by CPC, of which £4k was paid. The scheme was finally implemented in 2023.

3. Implementation

The scheme was implemented in autumn 2023 and had two initial teething problems:
1- General signage for both the schemes, and the boards showing parking charges being installed after the scheme had commenced;
2 – Single yellow lines outside Intwood Stores causing confusion for customers as to when they could park.

Both of these issues have since been addressed.

4. Impact of Parking Scheme

The scheme has been successful in addressing the issues for which it was put in place. Both roads are now mostly free from on-road parking, and parishioners can leave their drive ways without safety concerns. Parking Enforcement Officers have been seen onsite and haven confirmed that they educate roughly 3-10 visitors per visit on how the new scheme works.

There are however some ongoing parishioner concerns.

On Intwood Road it has been reported that cars are parking in the bays outside the shop for the whole two-hour period, to attend local meetings at CBC.

On Colney Lane concerns have been raised about the parking bay nearest to Newmarket Road, which is located on a bend. When cars are parking in the bay it prevents nearby residents being able to leave their drive ways with good visibility. It also causes vehicles on the roads to have to pull out onto the wrong side of the road, on a bend, to pass the parked car. Norfolk County Council have been to site and have confirmed that the site of the bay has been assessed by their Road Safety team and no concerns were raised.

On both roads, now the roads are clearer, residents have highlighted the potential for cars to travel over the speed limit. Our speed monitoring SAM2 cameras already have locations on Intwood Road in preparation of this, and if required we can request permission from NCC to also install them on Colney Lane.

The only other issues are items that the Parish Council would not be able to assist with; one resident has complained to NCC that she does not have enough parking space without being able to use the road, and one who was unable to obtain permits for builders for the full period required.

5. Next Steps

The safety issue on Colney Lane has been reported to NCC and they have dealt with it to their satisfaction.

Regarding the parking bays outside the shop, is the scheme was ever reassessed by NCC they could be asked to reduce the bay times, but this would likely upset customers in the neighbouring hairdressers.

The SAM2 camera on Intwood Road will be monitored for its results when next located there.

PEC to consider if these matters need to be referred to the Road Safety Group.