

# WHEATLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## PARKING SURVEY AND RESULTS

### 1 Introduction

As a result of the questionnaire completed by residents of Wheatley as part of the WNP, it was clear that parking was a major issue and therefore should be studied to see if any improvements to the existing facilities could be made to reduce the size of the problem. In addition, where new parking spaces could be created.

The key problem areas identified were as follows:

Church Road, including both The Merry Bells car park and the SODC car park; High Street, in particular adjacent to the shops; outside the Primary School during school hours; Old London Road whilst Oxford Brookes University students are at the campus.

Methodology

To identify the nature and size of the parking problem in each area the registration numbers of all vehicles were recorded for 3 days, normally Monday, Wednesday and Friday and normally at 8.30am, 12.20pm and 6.30pm, where it was thought necessary hourly records were also made on certain days.

I have all the data from which this report was produced should it be required.

Accompanying this report is an example of a completed data sheet showing how the information was recorded

### 2. Results

The roads/locations surveyed were (a) Church Road which included both The Merry Bells and SODC car parks, (b) High Street from the Co-op Pharmacy to Crown Square including a short length of Mulberry Drive.

#### 2.a) Church Road

Church Road East: in general, there was not a problem to find a parking space at the times surveyed, there typically being 3-4 spaces available.

Merry Bells car park: this was generally full to capacity with only 1 or 2 spaces available.

SODC car park: generally plenty of spaces but this varied through the day, at 8.30 an average of 14 spaces, 12.30 7 spaces and 4 spaces at 6.30pm

Outside the Recreation area: the opposite to the SODC car park, 10 spare spaces at 6.30pm and 6 at 9.30am

In conclusion, no real problems at the present time, however there were on average 5 vans parked in this area at both 8.30am and 6.30pm; at 12.30pm only 2 vans. The majority of these vans being owned by the Wheatley Tyre Centre. If these vehicles could be kept elsewhere this would free up additional parking spaces.

#### 2.2 High Street

Bell Lane to Station Road: Parking in this area is very difficult, typically only 1 space available at any one time. It is known that in addition to residents parking in front of their houses, there are at least 2 to 3 vehicles parked associated with businesses located in the immediate area.

Station Road to the Manor House: parking in this area is generally no problem there being typically 6 free spaces. However, parking can be difficult outside the Pharmacy with people collecting prescriptions resulting in some parking on double yellow lines.

Bottom of Mulberry Drive/Crown Square & High Street to the new Post Office location: parking in this area is difficult but not impossible, no accurate count of spaces was made.

Outside shops from Cornfield to Costcutter & on the opposite side from Ochre to the bollard outside Wok 1: An average of 72% of the vehicles recorded stayed for a maximum of 1 hour, in practice this figure would be much higher as vehicles were also coming and going during the hour, showing a high turnover in the use of the vehicles parking spaces. There was an average of at least 5 spare parking spaces at each count. The number of cars parking all day were 6, one was parked for the whole week

Based on this survey there appears to be adequate parking spaces but there may well have been times when there were no spaces at other times during the day. So the result based on this survey is inconclusive.

2.3. The Wheatley Retailer and Businesses took part in a village exhibition concerning the High Street and asked visitor to comment on the parking situation. There was an 80% approval for business parking permits to be introduced for the SODC car park. Also an 81% approval for extra High Street parking spaces.

2.4 Areas not monitored: outside the Primary School, Old London Road

### 3. Conclusions

In drawing conclusions of the parking situation in Wheatley, the following comments are based on both the results of the counts conducted and local knowledge of parking practices. Overall at the present time finding parking in Wheatley is not a major problem except in the area around the High Street shops, outside the Primary School and Old London Road during the term time when Oxford Brookes students take up all available spaces. There has been a feeling among some residents that a high number of cars are being parked by people coming into the village and then catching buses into Oxford and therefore taking up spaces all day. The counts made do not show evidence of this Practice; in particular, the evidence shows a high turnover of cars during the day in the SODC car park. The evidence also shows that most parking is related to residents in Wheatley, and businesses operating in Wheatley. There is a high turnover outside the High Street shops also.

3.1 High Street shops area: very little can be done to create extra parking spaces in the High Street apart from the removal of a couple of bollards. One proposal however, is to find somewhere in the village where vehicles owned by people working in the village can be parked for the day. See 3-4 below.

3.2 Outside the Primary School: everyone is aware of this problem. WNP has met with the Diocese and School headteacher (March 2017) and it was agreed that this would be resolved when the school site is re-developed; parking spaces should then be provided on site as has been done at Wheatley Park School.

3.3 Old London Road: The parking problem in this area should be resolved when the Oxford Brookes campus is relocated.

3.4 Possible solutions to parking problems: The creation of a restricted parking area for local businesses to park their vehicles will help the problem in the High Street shopping area. Local businesses have suggested a number of spaces in

the SODC car park should be reserved exclusively for their vehicles, the number of spaces yet to be proposed. The vans currently parked in Church Road adjacent to the recreation ground could also be included. Another possible location which has been proposed is to create a parking area on the land owned by the County Council Highways Department adjacent to the new Taylor Wimpey housing development. This could also be used by either staff or for visitors to the Morland House surgery, who will need extra parking spaces when the OBU site is replaced by up to 300 houses. Whilst the ground is currently in the Green Belt, it is an obvious place to consider if proper access and screening can be put in place or maintained in the case of the tree line.

3.5 If WPC adopt the 'Wake up to Wheatley' proposal from the High Street Improvement Group, there will be better signage to parking areas around the village centre, within walking distance of the centre.

4.0 This project was organised by myself and David Mancey and Ian Germaine and the counts were carried out by the above and members of the High Street Project team for which we are very thankful for their assistance.