

## **Petitions Submitted by Members of the Public 2013/14**

### **Petition No. 1**

A petition containing 23 signatures has been submitted by a member of the public in the following terms:

Dear Sir,

As a resident of 200 Otford Rd, I wish to inform you of recent adverse changes to my and many other residents ability to park anywhere near their houses, in the bays in the slip road in front of our houses.

The reason for this is simply that staff and customers of Hayward's garage opposite have started to use this parking as their own.

In questioning several of the people who park outside my house all day, they all tell me that the management has forbidden them to park anywhere on the garage site, notwithstanding it is vast with a 200m road frontage and significant depth behind the garage. They are all told they are "allowed" and must park in our residents bays.

This cannot be allowed to continue, or what was promised to residents when the council made the service road and parking bays, for residents 10 years ago!

A private commercial business is depriving residents of an important facility the council deemed necessary for our usage, it should not be tolerated, or allow them to make more money keeping their own parking areas free.

This situation has worsened in last 2 or 3 months due the garage recently letting part of its fore court to Enterprise Hire Cars. It has granted them minimal parking from their own resources for this new business and also instructs Enterprise staff and customers to park in Otford Rd residents parking bays.

This with another recent concession, a hand car wash at the left hand side of the site, has lead to regular inconvenience of residents who are unable to unload shopping, or park anywhere along the service road bays.

Given that there are only 42 houses in this stretch and about 42 bays, with 6 of 7 houses also having created their own off-road parking, there was before and still should be enough parking for all.

However, given the new directive from the new manager of Hayward's, I calculate that up to half of the bays are now being used by staff and customers of Haywood's

and related businesses. Between 8.30 am and 5.00pm almost all of the parking bays at the garage end are full, when a year ago only a half were when residents are at work.

The residents have held a meeting to discuss this worsening problem and wish to make the council aware of the new problem before tempers fray due to the resident's frustration of having increasingly nowhere to park.

1. The council should forbid Haywood and Enterprise from parking in these spaces, otherwise we will start to park on their forecourt, which will no doubt escalate the problem and tensions.
2. If a warning to the businesses forbidding this practise does not stop them, either
  - a. Impose a fine or charge on them for miss -use of civic property.
  - b. Make it clear by permitting us to erect a sign stating that parking is for residents only.

I have spoken to the garage management and staff before so they are aware of the problem they are causing, but they flatly refuse to do anything about it until the council takes action.

We are aware that part of the planning permission for Haywards business, specifically referred to them providing adequate parking for their own staff and customers. This is a blatant breach of this condition.

During discussions with near neighbours and others in the road, I understand that there have been other letters and partitions to the council about this problem in recent years. One of the "solutions" someone in the council came up with, was a paid residents permit scheme.

This seems to us to be completely unreasonable, given that;

- The problem is with the garage opposite and not any members of the public
- The solution is to forbid and/or penalise Hayward's if they carry on using residents parking. This is simple and easy to do, just write to them.
- Sainsbury's have recognised there is a problem with Hayward's staff parking in their car park and stopped them, which is partly why the problem has worsened in our road. The council should do the same on our behalf.
- A permit scheme will be an unnecessary cost to us and the council.

Please see the signed partition by those residents who supported this letter and who have been inconvenienced many times themselves.

Yours sincerely,

The petition was responded to by the Parking and Amenities Manager on 17 May 2013.