**Meeting of Riverside Community Council Parking Subroup**

09.06.21 at 8:00 pm via Zoom

Present: Apologies:

Joan Murphy (RCC, chair) Christina Sheill

Sue Dumbleton (RCC, minute) Karen Nesbet

Ashleigh Phillip (RCC)

Mike Furlong

Ken Gray

Andy Parraco

Chara Parraco

Carol Robertson

Christine Wike (RPS)

Kathryn Anderson

John Rowbotham

Di Alderdice (RCC)

Andrew Fraser (RCC)

Joan opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. She acknowledged that parking in Riverside is a long-standing problem. Much of the discussion centred on pick up and drop off times for RPS but there are also difficulties caused by Riverside’s proximity to the bus and railway stations and the town.

Joan outlined the consultation about parking which Stirling Council started in 2019. This was suspended later that year then the planned restart was interrupted by Covid restrictions. Joan also explained the background to Stirling Council’s ‘Spaces for People’ initiative, funded by Scottish Government, to mitigate problems caused by Covid (eg the need for social distancing). These temporary measures were judged by RCC to be dangerous and counter productive. A ‘Public Education Campaign’ in the shape of notices on lampposts is currently underway. The CC has detailed comments available on its website ([RiversideCommunityCouncil.co.uk](http://RiversideCommunityCouncil.co.uk/))

Di gave brief details of the CC’s work on Active Travel and in particular the surveys which have been undertaken in Riverside. The work done on the ‘Travel-light Riverside’ Project (not just surveys), has produced numerous comments and suggestions about parking and Active Travel, and these should also be included in any discussions with the council.

In identifying the problems and possible solutions below everyone agreed that constructive ideas are helpful and that working in co-operation with all the interested parties (Riverside residents, Stirling Council, Riverside PS, businesses in Riverside, leisure and third sector organisations) is vital.

A report from this meeting will be given at the next RCC meeting, 30th June 2021, and the points raised will form the basis of a discussion with officers of Stirling Council which will take place in July.

**Parking Problems, Issues and Concerns**

* Confusion about double yellow lines. Can the parking enforcement team move people or not?
* Engines left idling sometimes for up to half an hour outside or near to school at pick up times. Is enforcement possible?
* Parking on pavements near to or outside school
* Cars parked on both sides of narrow roads makes walking, cycling or scooting hard for children as visibility is reduced
* No designated cycle route for children

* Commuter parking in Riverside is increasing as covid restrictions lift – an old problem returning
* Parking for town shops is also a problem – an old problem returning
* Vehicles from the“car-free” flats
* Some town business owners are leaving their vehicles in Riverside
* Crossing roads, particularly Forth Street at the junction of Forth Place and Forth Crescent is dangerous at very busy times. Dean Crescent on the approach to Lovers Walk is also difficult to cross safely. This applies to all pedestrians, not just children.

**Possible Solutions**

* Designated pick up/drop off space for school which would encourage children to walk even a short distance for example:
  + - Queenshaugh Drive between bowling club and boating club
    - Ten pin bowling car park
    - Green Lounge
    - Near Waverley Park
    - Space by Engine Shed currently used by the Covid testing centre
* Designated cycling route which is clearly marked. Regulations about cycling on pavements need to be adhered to
* Teachers to share car park at Riverbank Centre (all Stirling Council employees)
* Exclusion zone round school at drop off and pick up times – School Streets <http://schoolstreets.org.uk/> (eg there is one at Broomhill PS in Glasgow)
* Enforcement of regulations on double yellow lines, idling engines
* Parking in Forth Street at right angles to the road – would require one way traffic?
* Turn one of the school playgrounds into a car park for teachers
* Enquire of Allan’s PS how pick up and drops off times are managed in the middle of town where there is no parking and no car park for the school
* Investigate banners on the fence round the school
* Involve the school/pupils in planning and undertaking behaviour change strategies
* A reconfiguration of spaces in Riverside and an examination of priorities eg is it defensible to take away space from children to make more space for cars?
* A one-way system round Riverside was suggested with only residents allowed into the inner streets. This could be full time or at peak times.
* Investigate the flashing lights system at St Modans
* Bus service for children from Causewayhead
* Lollipop person
* It would be useful to know how many vehicles might need to be accommodated in any new arrangement for drop-off and, especially, pick-up - and how many exceptions there would be (if it could be managed).
* One resident wrote: Not keen on banners etc., but often wondered why we don’t have some with the relevant Highway Code rule 239 emblazoned upon them …  :

**Rule 239**

Use off-street parking areas, or bays marked out with white lines on the road as parking places, wherever possible. If you have to stop on the roadside:

* do not park facing against the traffic flow
* stop as close as you can to the side
* do not stop too close to a vehicle displaying a Blue Badge: remember, the occupant may need more room to get in or out
* you **MUST** switch off the engine, headlights and fog lights
* you **MUST** apply the handbrake before leaving the vehicle
* you **MUST** ensure you do not hit anyone when you open your door. Check for cyclists or other traffic
* it is safer for your passengers (especially children) to get out of the vehicle on the side next to the kerb
* put all valuables out of sight and make sure your vehicle is secure
* lock your vehicle.

Before using a hand-held device to help you to park, you **MUST** make sure it is safe to do so. Then, you should move the vehicle into the parking space in the safest way, and by the shortest route possible.

When you use a hand-held device to help you to park, you **MUST** remain in control of the vehicle at all times. Do not use the hand-held device for anything else while you are using it to help you park, and do not put anyone in danger. Use the hand-held device according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

**Laws**[**CUR regs 98**](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1986/1078/regulation/98/made)**,**[**105**](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1986/1078/regulation/105/made)**,**[**107**](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1986/1078/regulation/107/made)**&**[**110**](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/592/regulation/2/made#f00003)**,**[**RVLR reg 27**](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1989/1796/regulation/27/made)**&**[**RTA 1988 sect 42**](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/52/section/42)

* Another resident summarised things neatly:

A lot of useful contributions were made at the meeting.

For my money, the single best proposal is to make the area around the school an enforced exclusion zone. This would remove the immediate danger to children and pedestrians due to anti-social parking and idling; allow spaces for people and encourage more "active travel". However, the measure would need to be properly managed and the number of exemptions and exceptions should be minimal. I can see a situation arise where every driver can claim some sort of special need to be able to park on the doorstep of the school!.