



Cllr Tim Oliver, OBE
Surrey County Council

Dear Tim,

Parking Issues in the Triangle

I am writing on behalf of Triangle residents to seek your assistance in securing a meaningful and practical response to the parking issues that continue to blight this part of Weybridge, without exacerbating other problems such as speeding.

We have shared our concerns on this topic with you and Surrey officials over recent years. As you know, the Triangle Residents' Group has always adopted a data-driven, holistic approach and would still wish this to continue. However, such are growing pressures on parking, and consequently the increasing pressure by residents to take action. If we do not make progress with an approach or approaches that work holistically, it is likely that residents in various of the roads in the Triangle will seek to have measures implemented in their own area which may suit them but be detrimental to others, and consideration of the whole system will be sacrificed.

We had hoped that the Atkins Review would potentially address at least some of these concerns but the Triangle is conspicuous by its absence from the report or, as far as we can see, from any proposed follow-on action.

Parking saturation in the Triangle is indisputable. Both Surrey County Council and Elmbridge Borough Council now accept, albeit somewhat belatedly, as evidenced by responses to planning applications, that the Triangle is subject to high levels of parking stress. It is no exaggeration to say that daytime stress often exceeds 95% in Princes Road, York Road (south) and New Road, well above an acceptable level. This perception has been supported in evidence gleaned from local Traffic Surveys produced by developers and from visits by planning inspectors dealing with appeals.

What is missing from official surveys of traffic and parking is any real assessment of the practical impact of such pressures on the daily lives of people living in the area. The official Manual for Streets notes that "In residential locations, high levels of kerbside parking and inconsiderate behaviour can create problems with access, convenience and safety." This summarises the situation facing many Triangle residents. While the rejection of new development with inadequate or no onsite parking provision is welcome in that it limits the rate of the growth of on-street parking pressures, it does not deal with the core problem of too many vehicles already chasing a finite number of on-street spaces.



The results from an earlier survey of local opinion by the Triangle Residents' Group were revealing. Concerns in Pine Grove largely related to the narrowness of the road, parking on pavements and obstruction of sight lines because of vehicles parked too close to junctions. The problems in Princes Road, particularly between York Rd and Queens Rd junctions, York Road (South) and New Road, with parking allowed on both sides of the road, were even more acute. Residents identified blocked access and severely reduced sight lines resulting from vehicles overlapping dropped kerbs and ignoring existing parking restrictions, not helped by poor maintenance of road markings and lack of effective enforcement, as constant dangers. In New Road, where the majority of houses lack their own drive, the inability of residents to park at or near their homes because of fully occupied parking on both sides of the road is a constant source of complaint.

Since TRG last conducted a survey, the situation across the Triangle has, according to residents' complaints and our own observations, worsened, adding to public frustration. We could carry out a further survey purely to validate this but believe there would be no point.

Both Princes Road and Pine Grove are main routes for school children. Manby Lodge is situated in Princes Road, while Heathside students walk and cycle in significant numbers twice daily down Princes Road and Pine Grove.

Safe passage for cyclists, schoolchildren and pedestrians through the Triangle cannot be guaranteed if the current parking saturation and levels of inconsiderate parking persist. Both Surrey and Elmbridge rightly recognize the importance of encouraging safe and healthy travel initiatives. It would be disappointing to say the least if public engagement with and confidence in such approaches were to be undermined by failures to recognize and remedy the issues listed above.

Moreover, improvements in the Triangle would be likely to be of benefit to the Queens Road corridor identified in the LCWIP.

TRG believe that action is required now, based on the principles set out in the Manual for Streets. It is of course right to project a future in which there is less reliance on personal motor vehicle but we also have to accept the current realities. In trying to identify potential solutions, we believe that the overall level of car ownership in the area, the actual amount of on-street parking opportunities available, the speed and volume of traffic rat-running through the Triangle coupled with the speed calming attributes of parked vehicles and the width and geometry of the existing junctions and often inadequate provision of pavements should all be taken into account.

TRG lack the expertise or resources to work through the optimum solution in detail. However, it is possible to identify a range of potential options, the implications of which



need careful balancing. For example, clearer indication of on-street parking spaces through road markings, changes of surfacing and limited use of buildouts, can all help to encourage good parking behaviour. Beyond that there are potential options for tailoring controlled parking restrictions or setting up Residents' Parking Schemes. The latter might be particularly appropriate in addressing the problems in New Road. We would therefore welcome your assistance in setting up a meeting with appropriate officials to work out the best way forward that would have a real chance of being delivered in a reasonable timeframe.

If you would find it helpful to discuss matters directly, please let me know. I can be contacted on 07508772489.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Your sincerely

Nick

Nick Thrupp
Chair,
Triangle Residents' Group



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