

HIGHFIELD PARK AND WESTBROOK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PARKING UPDATE

At the last A.G.M. of Highfield Park and Westbrook Residents' Association it was agreed that we would investigate possible solutions to the parking problems in the estate and to report its findings to the residents. This document is that update and should be viewed as a discussion document as the Residents' Association has no mandate to take any action.

Today's Parking Problem

Over the summer a number of residents approached the outgoing Residents' Association Committee members on the subject of parking in the estate and requested that it be debated at the AGM, with a view to investigating potential solutions.

Today the problem is most acute at the entrance to the estate and involves non-residents parking their cars in the estate (i.e. Highfield Park/Westbrook). This excessive parking results in the following:

- Hazardous for affected residents getting in and out of their driveways due to the way cars park so close to the driveway entrance and obscuring visibility.
- Safety hazard to children and people with special needs.
- Concerns about delays caused to Emergency Services Vehicles entering & exiting the estate.
- Delays for residents entering and exiting the estate due to the stop/go traffic flow necessary to pass oncoming traffic.
- Inability to for visitors or delivery drivers to get parking outside impacted houses.

Future Parking Problem

At the AGM it was noted that in all likelihood the problem may be significantly exacerbated. In 2020 the Central Mental Hospital is planned for redevelopment and the numbers of builders and trades on-site may seek nearby parking. In addition the residents of our neighbouring estate Mulvey Park are currently in the process of applying for Pay and Display parking. All of which points to a trend whereby the problem of excessive non-resident parking may extend further into the estate, impacting more residents.

Potential Solutions

With these problems in mind research was carried out into potential solution options and the following options were discounted:

- **'Residents Parking Only' signs.** DLRCC will not permit these signs as the roads public roads and are under the care of the council.

- **Use of Private Clamping Company.** Clamping is not permitted in public roads.
- **Single Yellow Lines.** The council is no longer putting down single yellow lines as they are time sensitive and have to be policed by the Gardaí. The Gardaí have insufficient resources to do this.

The following suggestions remain under consideration:

- **Do Nothing**
- **Double Yellow Lines On Grounds Of Safety**
- **Pay and Display (which would include limited use of double lines in places)**

Do Nothing

At present there are no parking restrictions in Highfield Park or Westbrook either for residents or non-residents. Doing nothing means this would continue. Our neighbouring estate Mulvey Park may have Pay and Display in the near future. We will then be the estate closest unrestricted estate to the Luas or to the Central Mental Hospital (soon to be developed). With no visible deterrent in the form of double yellow lines, cars are being parked with no consideration to the residents and are a danger to all who live here. On the plus side, there are currently no costs in the form of permit charges.

Double Yellow Lines

If we were to apply to have double yellow lines, on grounds of safety, a safety audit will be carried out and the council engineer will decide where these lines will be placed. The residents would not have a say, as safety is the issue. The engineer would determine where double-yellow lines are warranted and it would mean residents in those houses would not be permitted to park outside their homes at any time day or night. This would however tackle the safety issue where it's most acute.

Pay and Display

Designated parking pays where parking is permitted. It's necessary to explicitly mark out where parking is not permitted (corner, junctions, etc.) so it comes with a degree of Double Yellow Line designation also. However, given the patrolling of Pay and Display areas by parking enforcement officials, they are more enforced than Double Yellow lines in isolation.

In order for an area to be assigned Pay and Display parking, there is an established consultation process to be followed. The following is an overview of that process:



- i. Residents Association asks residents to vote on whether or not there is approval in principle for the introduction of Pay and Display parking.
- ii. The Residents' Association have determined that a two-thirds majority in favour will be required in order to progress, in which case we will apply in writing to DLRCC.
- iii. DLRCC conduct a review to determine the feasibility of a scheme and to determine the most appropriate design.
- iv. The details of the proposed design for the Pay and Display scheme are published (including its design including location of parking bays, location of double yellow lines, pay and display charging model, etc.)
- v. The council will conduct their own formal poll, based on all Residents on the electoral register. In addition Residents not on the electoral register who have a car registered Highfield pk or Westbrook road can request to be included in the poll. The Council will only implement the Pay and Display scheme if the majority vote in favour.
- vi. Pay and Display is implemented including street markings, signage, Pay and Display machines

We are currently at the beginning of this process and will conduct a survey over the coming days. A member of the residents association will call to you with a survey

While the parking issue in Highfield Park and Westbrook are more acute in the entrance of the estate, scheme is only available on an all-or-nothing basis. DLRCCO have stated that they do not considering implementing Pay and Display on a subset of an estate.

Implications of Pay and Display Parking for Residents

Parking permits would be required for residents who wish to park outside their driveway or elsewhere in the estate. These would apply to cars registered to owners whose address is in Highfield Park and Westbrook and is valid for any parking space in the scheme (i.e. Highfield + Westbrook). They are specific to a particular car (i.e. car reg is listed on the permit) and may not be switched to a visitor's/other family member's car. The cost is is €40 per car per annum or €75 for two years. Each household can have up to 4 permits. Purchasing a permit does not guarantee a parking space outside a resident's house or anywhere else estate. It means you are entitled to park where a space is available.

Residents are allowed to pre-purchase reduced-price parking tokens, which they can give to visitors. The tokens cost €2 each for a duration of 1 day.

Cars may park in front of their own driveway (i.e. blocking the driveway) or someone else's with their permission without the need for a parking token.

Cars with valid disabled parking permits can park in any Pay and Display bay free of charge.

At this stage the council will not go into the detail of the number of parking spaces that would be in Highfield Park and Westbrook with Pay and Display. This would be determined by the Council's survey

A Pay and Display system also includes the installation of ticket machines. We do not know the number or location of these machines as they are, again, subject to the scheme's design.

Next Steps

A survey will be taken of residents to determine whether there is a two-thirds majority in favour of Pay and Display. This survey will take the form of a paper-based ballot with one vote per household. The survey will take place before the end of March. The results will be shared with residents along with details of the subsequent steps to be taken, if any.

Future Considerations

In addition to the parking issue the Residents' Association will discuss with the council the prospect of extending the yellow box at the entrance at Dundrum Rd to cover both lanes of traffic.

Further Details

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's relevant web pages:

https://www.dlrcoco.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/guidelines_for_the_introduction_of_pay_and_display_parking_scheme.pdf

https://www.dlrcoco.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/paid_parking_information_leaflet_1.pdf

<https://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/travel-transport/parking/visitor-parking-permits>

Contact Details

The following Residents' Association Committee member is contactable for any questions/comments relating to the parking discussion.

Brian McMahon
3 Highfield Park
086 8540389
brianmcmahon.dublin@gmail.com