



NORWICH
City Council

Norwich Highways Agency committee

19 December 2019

Public questions/petitions

The following question was considered at the city council's full council meeting on 24 September 2019 and referred to this committee:

Q1: Earlham Road Parking

Mr Mark Winterburn to ask chair the following question:

"In the spirit of trying to preserve as many car parking spaces as possible on Earlham Road around the Mitre pub, I would like to challenge the decision to create two short stay spaces outside the Mitre pub. Therefore my question is: would the council consider revoking the plan to offer short stay spaces outside the Mitre Pub?"

Even though it is apparently "standard" practice to offer two short stay spaces for businesses, in this situation, the Mitre does have its own car park which should have had some influence on this decision. The church is getting some short stay spaces further up and so reversing the double yellows to accommodate. This means that Mitre will have its own car park and some short stays outside the church which should be more than adequate for the persons who use the Mitre. Officers have commented already that the short stays are not outside residential property but this does not take into account that actually they are opposite residential properties who currently are often able to use the space for parking due to having double yellows directly outside their own residential properties.

The council is also planning to put double yellows outside the gates of the Mitre Public House which will consume yet another space which will be a waste as the pub does not use the gate for vehicular access. Any deliveries or bin emptying or emergency services would park as far off the road as possible in front of the Mitre's car park. They would not park in front of the gates as it would be too narrow for them. The only outcome is the loss of a further space."

Councillor Tony Adams, chair, to respond on behalf of the committee.

“Within a permit parking area there are always conflicting demands on the space available and in this particular area, there are a number of local businesses that would benefit from the provision of short stay parking in addition to the Mitre Public House. The short stay parking can also be used by residents’ visitors without the need to display a permit.

This committee discussed this short section of short stay parking when it met in September as a local councillor raised the issue on behalf of local residents who wanted the spaces changed to permit parking. This committee agreed that the short stay parking should remain. The issue you now raise about the length of the yellow lines in this location was not raised at any point during the consultation.

The legal order to support the new permit scheme has now been made and signage is currently being installed across the new permit area. This includes the yellow lines on Earlham Road and the short stay spaces adjacent to the Mitre public house. It is not possible to make changes now without a further consultation and another legal order. I do not consider that this is a worthwhile exercise for a few metres of double yellow line. The permit scheme, including the short stay bay and the yellow lines (assuming we have been able to paint them as they are weather dependant) will go live in January.”

Q2: Bus services – Earlham Road

Mr Richard Gray, West Parade , to ask the following question:

“Will the committee use its influence to ensure a balanced provision of services across Norwich and Norfolk? Specifically will it persuade Konect Bus to return Nos. 3 and 4 back to Earlham Road.?”

In September, Konect Bus unilaterally rerouted Nos. 3 and 4 via Newmarket Road. Whilst understandable during the disruptive roadworks, this now means:

- (a) No direct bus from Earlham Road to either the hospital or the bus station;
- (b) First Bus No 26 is the only remaining service to and from the hospital and is overcrowded with students in the morning, making it impractical for those with disabilities;
- (c) No service to the hospital at all on Sundays;
- (d) No bus service at all on Earlham Road between the ring road and Fiveways;
- (e) Newmarket Rd now has 9 services running along it whilst Earlham Road with a larger population living just off it has one”.

Councillor Tony Adams, chair, to respond on behalf of the committee.

“Thank you for your question regarding bus services 3 and 4 operated by konectbus. These services are run commercially with no financial input by the county or city councils, which means there is no local authority input to the routing and operation of these services. Other bus services operate in that area and we note the feedback that they are busy and can therefore be difficult to use, particularly for someone in a wheelchair. The county council is currently in discussion with konectbus to see if a solution can be found.”