

Public questions/petitions

Public question 1

Ms Margaret Todd, Norwich Cycling Campaign, to ask the following question:

“Several schemes to improve provision for cycling installed in the past few years rely on painted lines for the safety of the route. The most obvious example is the Magdalen Street contraflow where the mandatory cycle lane is defined by a white line. In practice, many vehicles have to cross this line because of car parking on the other side of the road, both legal, illegal and sometimes just inconsiderate.

This line is the only protection for cycling, a visual signal to drivers that they must be aware of cycles in the contraflow line and not cross it unless it is safe to do so. This line is not advisory or for information, but a legally enforceable space on the highway and essential for safe cycling along this route. It has disappeared along much of its length.

Can the committee say when this line will be re-instated? What resources and plans are there in place to maintain this lane and others in a safe condition for the future?”

Councillor John Fisher, chair, to reply on behalf of the committee:

“Thank you for bringing this to my attention. The city council’s highways team will make sure that the lining highlighted on Magdalen Street is included in the 2018 programme. Unfortunately it cannot be done sooner as this year’s re-lining budget has already been spent. The city council’s routine maintenance lining programme is usually undertaken during the spring and summer months, as the weather and road conditions at that time improves the durability of the refreshed lining and helps to ensure its lasts longer.”

Public question 2 – This question relates to agenda item 6 – University Area Parking Consultation

Mr Hunt, Osborne Road, to ask the following question on behalf of Mr Paul Brett, Osborne Road:

“Firstly I would to say in short as possible way what has been happening up here for a number of years. We have had lots of problems with students parking here leaving their cars here for up to three weeks at a time, so we have nowhere to park. There are six houses in Osborne Road that do not

have driveways so we do not have the option of parking in our garden or will never have due to the angle of the embankment!

The proposal is to place double yellow lines from Bluebell Road to 10 to 12 Osborne Road which won't work. Can you tell me where we are going to park? We have a mobility car for my son but don't have a badge. We agree that double lines need to be at the Blue Bell Road junction. We have spoken to people further down Osborne Road and explained the if this goes ahead we will have to park down there end and their aren't happy with that. Sorry for the explanation!

My question is can we please have permit parking from the boundary of no 2 for approximately 40 metres towards Bluebell Road. This would resolve the parking issues for us and stop student parking.

Please can you consider this as it would resolve the safety issues. Thank you."

Councillor John Fisher, chair, to reply on behalf of the committee:

"Thank-you for your question, and I am sure that everyone can appreciate the frustration of not being able to park.

I understand that, although Osborne Road as a whole did not support the idea of permit parking, there was more support at the Bluebell Road end of the street than elsewhere. However the response rate was still low with only six of the first twenty homes responding (a 30 percent response rate) and only 4 of those 6 households supported the idea

Although a majority of those who did respond supported permit parking I do not believe that we can justify providing permit parking in these circumstances. We have not implemented individual permit parking bays outside extended permit parking zones anywhere else in the city and it would create a precedent that we do not have the resources to accommodate in other areas.

I understand from the report that it is possible to consider lesser restrictions on Osborne Road than the double yellow lines that were advertised. I am sure that the committee will want to consider that, and when officers introduce the report they will be suggesting an alternative proposal which they believe will help address the student parking problem."