

Southcote - Prohibition of parking on verge and footway

Appendix 2 : comments/enquiries recorded in response to the trail ban:

Resident of Priory Point, Southcote Lane (Feb 15)

"I'm a resident at Priory Point, a block of flats that has only one parking spot per flat. It's my understanding that the source of this restriction is Reading Council's planning department having a mandate to reduce traffic (or some such well-meaning nonsense)

Now the parking restrictions are preventing safe passage of vehicle traffic along Southcote Lane, and resulting in damage to cars. I've had both my wing mirrors destroyed while parking on that road, and haven't bothered replacing them because they'll just get destroyed again. I've also had my tyre slashed while parked legally (obstructing nothing, and not on the verge, or footway, I might add) because someone decided I shouldn't park outside their house

This war on the automobile will only be won by making cities more liveable with good public transport links and support for small businesses near to where people live, not unreasonable parking restrictions. I was never consulted about this proposal. As a resident of Southcote I feel I should have had the opportunity to comment before the restrictions were put in place"

Resident of Priory Point, Southcote Lane (Feb 15)

"As a resident of Priory Point I have one dedicated parking lot on site, which is adequate for my needs. However, anyone visiting me has to park on the road as there are no guest parking spaces at Priory Point. I appreciate the difficulty of the conflict between pedestrians and car parking on the road / verge and consider an accommodated solution is needed. Please look into widening of the road to accommodate on street parking while preserving adequate footway space for the pedestrians. Thank you."

Resident of Virginia Way (June 15)

I have noticed a fair amount of signage in the affected areas however there appears to be no information apparent as to the consequences if people continue to park on the verge/pavement (which is continuing to happen in the Virginia Way/Gainsborough Road area almost daily).

Also, there is no information available to show how this is being enforced (i.e. are wardens monitoring the affected areas? can residents report licence plates of vehicles breaching the policy?).

I think this is a good initiative and solves the problem of vehicles ruining the grass verges and blocking pedestrian pavements, however I think there could be more information provided for people to understand the consequences of not adhering to this and also how to report those who are deliberately breaching the order.

Resident of Virginia Way (Aug 15)

I would like to bring to your notice major car vandalism and some minor incidents of vehicle-related nuisance happening on Virginia Way, Southcote. Because of car parking restrictions on the green area in front of my house, I park my car off-road on Virginia Way, Southcote.

This is the third time such an incident had happened. Previously, in last 5 months, after the parking ban, there have been two minor incidents which I ignored and didn't report. First one, Big Coke bottle was poured on my whole car, and the second one was minor scratch on the right doors of my car.

I will end up getting my car repaired and claiming from my insurance provider. As a result, my insurance will go up and I am mentally stressed. I am absolutely sure that it is unsafe to park on Virginia Way. There have been similar incidents reported in the past by other residents of Virginia way.

I pay council tax to get a safe & secure environment and Council needs to take steps to protect my property and assets. So, either I need a secured parking or need permission to park on the green in front of my house after 8pm.

Resident of Circuit Lane

I am a disabled driver who needs to park close to my property. This ban restricts access to my own home without any reasonable and acceptable alternative being offered.

Various other comments received from residents from across the Southcote area

1. How and when is enforcement taking place?
2. It's harder to drive fast through Southcote now
3. More enforcement is needed
4. I still see cars being parked on the grass
5. Southcote has improved with less damage to the grass since the ban has been introduced.
6. It's much better living here without cars being parked all over the place.
7. More areas need to have the ban
8. Why was Hatfield Road not included in the ban?
9. Traffic speeds are much lower on Southcote Lane now
10. Cars are being parked in the garage area now – this did not happen before the ban and it is more difficult to use the garages
11. There's less speeding in Southcote now
12. It's better to park on the footway rather than parking on the road, traffic can go faster.
13. Cars should be allowed to park on the verges so the road is clear.
14. Is (various streets) included in the ban?
15. It's much better around the school in Circuit Lane but Silchester Road needs the ban