

# Northam Town Council



## Full Council 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Report author: Guy Langton – Deputy Town Clerk

## Agenda item 16 Recommendations from the Appledore Parking Working Group.

### Introduction

1. In response to issues brought to members attention, at the Full Council meeting in January 2021, a working group was established to consider solutions to the problems encountered by residents and visitors alike. Its first meeting was in February 2021.
2. Residents were concerned by the very high numbers of cars, campervans and motorhomes visiting and staying in in and around Appledore daily throughout the summer season, compounded by the number of builders vans. The level reached has meant that residents without parking at their properties have been unable to park in Appledore.
3. It has been noted that during the national lockdowns in response to Covid-19 through 2020, there was little or no problem. During these times there were no visitors and fewer work-related vehicles, parking was used by residents only. It is noted that there are approximately 20% second and holiday homes in Appledore, a fifth of properties had no vehicles associated with them at all.
4. The working group comprised the ward Councillors for Appledore and Northam north, a representative of Appledore Residents Association and, latterly, Cllr Hodson

in her capacity as Mayor. Representatives of Torridge District Council, Devon County Council and Stagecoach Busses had also attended.

5. Contact was made with Skern Lodge seeking agreement from them that they make part of their lands available for overflow parking through the summer.
6. **The Officer notes that no formal agreement has been reached with Skern Lodge and thus the offer of that land and any marshalling for it must be considered as unconfirmed.**
7. Various temporary car parking locations were considered, including: Blackies layby in Appledore; Appledore Football Club; the land at Bloody Corner; Skern Lodge; and Burrough Farm.

### Recommendation

8. The working group made the below listed recommendations, which the Council are asked to consider individually.

- a. **That the Council fund the supply and installation of temporary AA road signs directing visitors to Churchfields carpark in Appledore and on to overflow parking at Skern Lodge (which is to be confirmed), using Welcome Back Funds if appropriate.** There would be 10 signs in all, as follows:

- i. As visitors enter Appledore, a sign advising them that car parks exist, stating "Visitors Car Park, follow signs", at the location in the picture to the right.
- ii. At suitable locations along the A386, especially at the start of and along the Quay and at the entrance to Churchfields car park, 4 reminder signs reading "Visitors Car Park".
- iii. At Churchfields, a sign reading "Overflow Parking", directing traffic towards and along Torridge Road, to be repeated twice before the entrance to the parking area at Skern Lodge. On leaving Skern Lodge, traffic would be directed west (left), this sign could be produced more cost effectively by a sign company.
- iv. It is understood that the field at Skern Lodge could accommodate approximately 50 vehicles.



- b. **To support the above, that the Council fund the cost of temporary permission for Skern Lodge to be used as car parking for over 56 days, if formal approval is reached, using Welcome Back Funds if appropriate.**
- i. This parking would be available for day-time hours, with no overnight parking (e.g. 8am to 6pm).
- c. **That the Council open the land between the car parking at Torridge Pool and the football pitch used by Northam Lions at Burrough Farm for temporary car parking over the summer, providing a 'park and change' facility, meeting the cost of any permissions if required.**
- i. This parking would be available for day-time hours, with no overnight parking (e.g. 8am to 6pm).
  - ii. This would be supported by leaflets and signage, the artwork for which could be provided by officers at Torridge District Council.



- d. **That the Council undertake a survey of Appledore residents and businesses to ascertain their support for changes to the parking restrictions in Appledore, to include a residents parking scheme.**
- i. The Officer has drafted a survey, which is appended to this report.
  - ii. The survey could be available to complete in hard copy (either by collection from the Council Offices and/or locations in Appledore, or by distribution with the Summer 2021 Newsletter) and by weblink, which could be publicized on the Council's website and through Facebook.

### Benefits

9. The benefits of each of the proposals is taken in turn:

- a. **Temporary signage.** It is anticipated that this would inform visitors to Appledore of the provision of parking in the village. The effect would be to significantly reduce the number of visitors simply parking in the first space they see but make use of the parking provided by the District Council.
  - i. This would increase the income for the District Council, who would see more regular use of the car parking.
- b. **Overflow Parking at Skern Lodge.** By providing this facility, the Town Council, in conjunction with Skern Lodge, are responding to the concerns of local residents.
  - i. Whilst the provision would be free, local charities and could be invited to marshal the car park and take a nominal fee of (e.g. £1) for each vehicle using Skern Lodge.
- c. **'Park and Change' at Burrough Farm.** By providing this facility, the Council would be able to direct people to parking available Northam, well before they enter Appledore. The proximity of the area to bus stops leading to and from Appledore could make this an attractive point to park, using public transport to complete the journey to Appledore.
  - i. Whilst the provision would be free, local charities and could be invited to marshal the car park to take a nominal fee of (e.g. £1) for each vehicle using Burrough Farm.
- d. **Survey.** By ascertaining the support for changes to the parking restrictions in Appledore, the Council would be able to evidence the requirement and then lobby the County Council for changes. The survey would also provide valuable evidence regarding parking for the Council's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Environmental implications**

- 10. The use of a 'park and change' location would reduce the number of cars driving to Appledore. This would reduce vehicle emissions in the local environment. There would be an approximate increase in vehicular emissions in the 'Park and Change' location.
- 11. Unless protected, the surface at any 'Park and Change' location would be damaged to a greater or lesser extent. This is most probably weather dependent.
- 12. A residents parking survey would have no clear environmental impact, whatever the outcome. Producing a hard copy survey for all properties in Appledore would

necessitate a large quantity of printed paper. There is some impact from printing and from the paper itself and from distribution.

13. New signage would have an impact but it would be anticipated that it could be re-used in the future, so may be considered an investment.

### **Financial Implications**

14. 'AA' event signs incur a cost. Without specific detail, the Officer has been unable to ascertain the exact cost but has been informed that ten signs would cost in the region of £660 (ex VAT). The lead time is approximately 6 weeks and they would be in place for the weeks from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> September. They would then be taken down, the signs remain the property of the AA. The AA would undertake the statutory work to get permission to install the signs, install them, then remove them at the end of the period.
- a. The Officer notes that should a similar approach be taken in future years, similar costs would be incurred each year.
15. Signs may also be sourced from street furniture companies. A custom made sign approx. 600mm by 450mm (roughly A2), with post-mounting brackets would be in the region of £120 per sign, the 10 suggested would therefore cost in the region of £1,200 (ex VAT). Lead time is 3 weeks at the time of writing.
16. A bollard-mounted sign saying "Turn Left", as can be seen by the picture on the previous page, would cost £45.
17. Skern Lodge has indicated that should an agreement be reached, it would expect the Council provide staff to open and lock the overflow car parking. The same might be needed for any parking opened up at Burrough Farm, though another unblocked entrance does exist to the northern edge of the . These times are outside the normal working hours of the Council's staff and thus would incur costs of overtime, flat rate hours or TOIL.
18. Temporary permission for Skern and Burrough Farm would be £462 per permission. The lead time for approval is 8 weeks, but the Officer has been informed that there is currently a 3-week delay to the process due to the volume of enquiries.
19. Car park marshals at the temporary sites would need hi-vis waistcoats, at approx. £3 each. There would be an insurance implication with any change of use of Council land.
20. A residents carparking survey would necessitate a cost in Officer time to produce and analyse. If produced in hard copy for all properties in Appledore, the cost would be

approx. 15p per survey (5 printed sides of A4). Distribution would also incur a cost but the Officer understands that it could be combined with another circular, such as The Link.

### **Risk Implications**

21. The Council would need to provide detailed risk assessments for any temporary car parking, these would need to be submitted to the Council's insurers (on request) and there may be insurance implications should accidents happen or damage occur to vehicles due to the unsuitability of the surfaces for regular or extended use as car parking.
22. There would be some, if minor, damage to the surfaces at temporary car park sites. The cost of repair would need to be met by the Council.
23. The Council would have to consider how to approach or deal with visitors that do not remove their vehicles by the posted closure time of any temporary car parking.
24. The Council may receive complaints from residents local to Burrough Farm or Skern Lodge if temporary parking is opened up either or both of these locations. The Officer notes there could be a significant increase in traffic to the locations. In the case of Burrough Farm, there is currently no traffic on the fields, beyond the limits of Torridge Pool's parking area.
25. Should the Council install custom made signs on posts already installed, it would be acting outside its powers. The Department for Transport's *Traffic Signs Manual*<sup>1</sup> guidance document states at section 3.3.1, under LEGAL ASPECTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, Location:

*"The use of non-prescribed signs on public highways without authorisation by the national authority might be deemed unlawful, with authorities using them acting beyond their powers. The erection of an unauthorised sign in the highway is an obstruction and the possible consequences of erecting or permitting the erection of obstructions can be severe".*

Guy Langton 24.06.2021

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<sup>1</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/771873/traffic-signs-manual-chapter-1.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/771873/traffic-signs-manual-chapter-1.pdf)



# Appledore Residents Parking Survey - Assessment of Issues

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey to help Northam Town Council, Torrington District Council and Devon County Council more fully understand the issues with parking in Appledore and resident's views on how they may be resolved.

Thank you for your participation.

\* Required

1. To help us understand the scale of the demand in your area, how many vehicles owned by residents in your household? Please include all cars, vans, campers, motorhomes. \*

- None
- One
- Two
- Three
- More than three

2. Do you have access to any off-street parking spaces? (e.g. a garage, driveway, private car park for residents) \*

- None
- One
- Two
- Three
- More than three

3. Do you have a resident's or season pass at a public car park? \*

Yes

No

If yes, please tell us which one below:

Other

4. \*Do you own a trailer, boat or caravan? \*

Yes

No

If yes, how many do you own that you park at your property?

Other

5. \*

6. If you use a public car park, can you tell us which one(s) you use? \*

Churchfields

Appledore Long Stay

Odun Road



7. Please indicate how many vehicles from your household regularly park on the road? \*

- None
- One
- Two
- Three
- More than three

8. If you are un-able to park in your road, please tell us which roads or car parks you park in? \*

9. Do you think there are parking problems in your road? \*

- Yes
- No

10. If you answered 'Yes' to the previous question, please tell us what the main reasons are for parking problems in your road? Please tick all that apply. \*

The road is unsuitable or unable to accommodate parking.

Some households have too many vehicles

Shopper parking

Residents from neighbouring roads

Commercial or work vehicles

Visitors to the area

Other

11. When do you consider the parking issues in your road mainly happen? \*

Daytime (e.g. 8am to 6pm)

Evening (e.g. 6pm to midnight)

Night (e.g. midnight to 8am)

Weekends

24 hours a day

All The Time, or At Any Time

Other

12. How would you consider the parking issues in your road could be improved? Please tick all that apply. \*

- Remove or amend existing parking restrictions (if applicable)
  - Introduce parking restrictions for a short period in the day (e.g. morning or afternoon)
  - Introduce parking restrictions for the day (e.g. 6am to 6pm)
  - Introduce parking restrictions overnight (e.g. 6pm to 6am)
  - Introduce 24-hour parking restrictions
  - Introduce a residents parking scheme (please read the below conditions of this type of scheme)
  -
- Other

13. Considering that residents parking schemes are normally introduced alongside other parking restrictions, if a residents parking scheme was introduced, are there any areas or roads in Appledore that should not be included in that scheme? \*

14. Would you be in favour of timed, ticketed parking along the Quay? \*

- Yes
- No

15. Would you support more detailed research and consideration of a residents parking scheme, alongside other schemes? \*

Yes

No

Other

16. Are there any other parking matters you would like to bring to our attention? \*

17. Please let us know the name of the road you live on, or where you have a business, so we can identify the most problematic areas. \*

## Conditions of a Residents Parking Scheme

Due to the cost of administering and enforcing a scheme it is necessary to apply an annual charge for each permit.

The number of permits available to households or businesses may be limited.

Having a permit would not guarantee a space outside your house or within the zone.

Residents parking schemes can reduce the amount of parking available as additional controls (yellow lines) may be required to protect junctions, access or visibility.

Please note that consideration of any scheme for progression will be dependent on an adequate number of responses being received.

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