

Chantry Road  
Bishop's Stortford  
Herts  
CM23 2SD

19 May 2015

Dear Sirs

**Chantry area B7 resident permit parking, Bishop's Stortford**

I enclose a petition calling on the Council to move the boundary of the parking bay at the Hadham Road end of Chantry Road to allow traffic to negotiate this junction more safely.

The petition has been signed by over 250 people who live in Chantry Road and the adjoining cul-de-sac. These other roads are Chantry Close, Carrigans, Canfield, Pleasant Road, the upper part of Thornfield Road, Grays Court and Steeple View. More than 80% of the addresses are represented. The petition has also been signed by a small number of others who are well aware of the difficulties caused by the parking at this end of the road, mainly because they visit the area to see family and friends. Comments made by residents about the junction approach near Hadham Road include it being dangerous, an accident waiting to happen, there isn't any room and references to near misses.

The petition refers to the safety aspect of the location. The volume of support given to it amply demonstrates the concern felt by those who know and use the section of road in question.

In correspondence I had in October and November 2014 with Mr Dominique Kingsbury, these points were discussed:

1. It was stated by the Council that all parties consulted when the scheme was being introduced had no concerns in respect of the proposed placement of this parking bay or with its proximity to Hadham Road junction. I did express concern about this aspect of the scheme in the initial consultation. I quote below the relevant part of my response in page 1258 of a questionnaire with closing date of 31 July 2012.

“Do you have any other comments about the introduction of residents' parking in your area?”

*“There is a hazard for drivers coming into Hadham Road from Chantry Road – not just because of a potential problem in wintry conditions as mentioned in our email of 5 June 2011. Drivers turning right into Chantry Road from the east end of Hadham Road often cut across the junction which makes it dangerous for vehicles coming down the hill since they have to be positioned in the middle of Chantry Road owing to cars parked in the first stretch of residents parking. Please reconsider our suggestion to extend the junction protection.”*

You will see that I first mentioned this in June 2011. A few people signing the petition have told me that they raised a similar point either in the initial consultation or subsequently.

2. I was told by the Council that the double yellow lines in situ at this junction are of sufficient length and extend beyond minimum requirements, thereby creating space for three vehicles to queue if necessary. It is stretching my imagination, and that of other residents to whom I have mentioned this assertion, to envisage three vehicles queuing in the length marked by the double yellow lines at this junction. I have measured it in a rather crude fashion by pacing the distance and I make it about 13 metres. My medium size hatchback is 4.595 metres long so with a reasonable allowance for manoeuvring space perhaps one vehicle would be a realistic answer. A second vehicle approaching down the hill is often to be seen partly across the white line marking the middle of the road.

3. It was put to me that motorists driving from Chantry Road towards Hadham Road have the flexibility of queuing in spaces that are available in the resident permit parking bay on the basis that the parking bay is under occupied the majority of time and the double yellow lines at the junction provide further options for drivers. The upper section of the bay is generally under occupied but the lower section is not and this is what gives rise to the hazard. In October, November and December last year I carried out some research to ascertain how often the end space in the bay is parked. I attach a table of my findings which show that the end space was parked in 96 out of a 100 random observations.

In the light of these comments and the petition please would the Council reconsider the extent of the marked parking bay at the Hadham Road end of Chantry Road and move it as requested. Some signatories would like to see the boundary at the point where the previous single yellow line finished near no. 10 Chantry Road. As you will be aware, Thornfield Road which is nearby, and is a cul-de-sac with far fewer houses, has a similar layout with an 8.00am to 6.00pm parking restriction, thus providing adequate space for traffic movements. There is a good case for Chantry Road having the same.

I am copying this letter to Councillor Phillips, Hertford (Bengeo), to Councillors Abbot and Warnell, Bishop's Stortford (Meads) and to the Chantry Community Association.

Yours faithfully

**Richard Owen**

Enc.

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