

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

Environment Scrutiny Committee 15th March 2011

Oral submission from PRA

Madam Chairman

- Our Association is grateful for the opportunity to make representations to your Committee.
- I'd like just to emphasise a few points with reference to our written submission which was circulated in advance
- As we say in our submission (para 5) , the overall situation in Portland Road and Portland Place is finely balanced with regard to supply and demand and though we knew this instinctively, this is something we have been able to substantiate thanks to the surveys we undertook at the end of last month
- Those surveys show consistently that of the cars parking in designated on-street areas in Portland and Portland Place, about 50% were occupied by permit holders not residing in these two roads but elsewhere in B4
- This means that the two roads already provide a substantial number of places for B4 permit holders
- Though the introduction of on-street parking in 2007 in the area was welcome and did much to alleviate some of the parking problems for which we are grateful, it should be pointed out that the Association now issues about 40% more permits currently than was the case back in 1996, reflecting the increase and pattern of car ownership. Therefore demand is up and at the same time on the supply side, some spaces have been taken out of commission due to redrawing of yellow lines and some excavation of front gardens in Newtown and Portland Roads
- We would say that we have shown that the continued provision of spaces in this car park is clearly of vital importance in maintaining the balance of supply and demand, not only in the two roads but also in Zone B4 as a whole. As our advisor, Stuart Davies, states in his report , if the current arrangements were to be changed, the effect would in all probability result in 'mutual' displacement as car owners from the two roads park seek spaces further afield and displace others in the process; and no advantage would accrue to the vast majority of residents in B4

- Finally, we would point to our good management of the facility which we see as an interesting and quite well established example of localism, a focal point for our local community. We are, of course, conscious that the land is Council owned but we have seldom troubled the Council over the last 15 years and just got on with the job of running it.

- We therefore request that the original proposal from officers in the Parking Service should not be proceeded with and that the current arrangements continue. We would look forward to working with the Council to ensure the continued good management of this car park.