

APPENDIX B - KEY FINDINGS AND OFFICER RESPONSES TO FEEDBACK

Through this consultation people were asked to provide their comments on the proposals, including any objections or support, and the reasons for their comments. The consultation period for this experimental scheme took place between 8th July 2022 – 8th of January 2023.

Following the deadline of the consultation period, all recorded feedback was collated. There was direct feedback from ward members for Wallasey, New Brighton and Hoylake & Meols, a petition signed by 11 people, 36 objections and 9 people wrote in to support the scheme. Below is a summary of the feedback and the key themes raised.

Key Support Themes

The points raised by supporters are as follows:

- Motorcaravan owners leave rubbish, and most do not contribute to the local economy, so their rubbish has to be dealt with at the expense of local council tax payers.
- It is unsightly to have lots of motorcaravans parked in the area.
- Brings anti-social behaviour and late-night drinking to a residential area.
- Removing the wall-to-wall motorcaravans has improved the natural beauty of the area.
- The motorcaravans cause parking congestion leaving little space for other visitors in cars or other day trippers to the area.
- Part of the promenade is residential and having motorcaravans parked nearby for weeks on end is inappropriate and is done mostly by outsiders, at the expense of local people.
- The motorcaravans restrict visibility on the highway, making it more dangerous for all other road users.
- It is right that motorcaravan owners should contribute toward waste collection and highway repairs etc by paying a parking fee.
- The occupiers often block the footways by setting up tables and chairs meaning that pedestrians have to walk in the road to get around which is unsafe.
- Human waste being disposed of in grids or en-masse in the only public toilet in the area, which is not designed for that purpose.

Key Objection Themes and Officers Response:

1. The parking charge and the location of the parking has discouraged Motorcaravan owners.

Response: The charge has been established largely to control the location of the parking of the motorcaravans. It is more appropriate that they are parked away from residential properties.

2. Basic facilities should be provided if a fee is charged.

Response: Alternative sites for off road parking for Motorcaravans will continue to be explored as part of a separate scheme. The draft Neighbourhood Framework has identified a site near the Derby Pool for overnight motorhome parking. Consultation is currently paused due to Local Plan and other emerging strategies including the parking strategy.

3. Anti-Social and intimidating behaviour from other campers who did not pay the fee. Discourages Motorcaravans from staying.

Response: The scheme is ticketless and parking is paid for by phone using vehicle registration, the Council's civil enforcement officers have access to the payment records and will be aware who has paid for parking, however, the general public wouldn't know who has or hasn't paid the parking fee. Those types of campers no doubt visited the area before the restrictions were in place also, so the scheme cannot be held responsible for that type of behaviour. Anti-Social and intimidating behaviour should be reported to the police for action.

4. The parking charges and motorcaravan parking prohibitions introduced on Kings Parade and Coastal Drive has caused a migration of Motorcaravans to Meols Parade, so the problem has been displaced.

Response: Recommendation 2b put forward for consideration by the committee is to introduce an overnight parking ban on Motorcaravans for the unrestricted sections on both North Parade and Meols Parade.

5. The fee is too high considering there are no amenities. Would be willing to pay a lower fee.

Response: An option for amending (lowering) the current parking fee has been considered, however, the majority of members from the affected wards would prefer the charge be kept at £20 and not changed at the present time and are keen for the council to find alternative sites for off road parking for Motorcaravans.

6. Motorcaravan owners spend money at the local businesses', and they will now suffer.

Response: There are no prohibitions on Motorcaravan Owners being able to park their vehicles on Coastal Drive / Kings Parade during the day up until 8pm in the overnight parking prohibition areas and up to 10pm in the Coastal Drive parking bays, introduced as part of this scheme. Therefore, there is the opportunity to use the local businesses during the daytime. This scheme also does not prohibit motorcaravan

owners from parking overnight either, as long as they pay the stated parking fee.

7. Motorcaravan owners pay vehicle tax and fuel duty like other vehicle owners, and this is discrimination.

Response: The primary function of the public highway is to allow for free and expeditious passage for all road users and parking on the highway is an additional benefit afforded only where it can be safely accommodated. It should be noted that maintaining access to, from and along the public highway is a statutory duty of the local authority and this sometimes requires the introduction of parking controls and other traffic management measures.

8. The area designated will cause “blind spots” where children play on The Dips
Response: Having all Motorcaravans parked on one length of carriageway is much easier to manage and will improve visibility in the majority of the area.

9. Lorries, buses and vans are not affected so why pick on Motorcaravans?

Response: There are rules pertaining to overnight parking of HGV'S and Buses or PSV's directing that they must be parked overnight at the company operating centre or, if that is not possible, in an appropriate location. Unlike Motorcaravan owners, HGV and PSV vehicle operators can be contacted, and their licences sanctioned if there are ongoing issues regarding where their vehicles are parked. However, overnight HGV and PSV parking is not currently an issue in the Kings Parade / Coastal Drive area.

10. The scheme will not stop anti-social behaviour or littering from others.

Response: The scheme has helped to reduce reports from local residents of anti-social behaviour and littering.

11. Motorcaravan owners can provide a secure presence by reporting anti-social behaviour to the police.

Response: This scheme does not prevent Motorcaravan owners from reporting anti-social behaviour. They are welcome to continue to park on street within the designated area, as long as they pay the applicable parking fee.

12. The scheme discriminates against blue badge holders or low income pensioners who might find travelling to the area and back home in one day a struggle and would therefore need the motorhome for hygiene reasons.

Response: Motorcaravan owners are welcome to continue to park on street within the designated area, as long as they pay the applicable parking fee. This scheme does not prevent that.

13. The associated signage ruins the beauty of the area.

Response: The signage and road markings in place meet all minimum requirements set by the Department for Transport in order for the scheme to be enforceable. Existing street furniture has been used where possible to house signs, to reduce street clutter.

14. This is a reaction to a few disgruntled residents during Covid when more Motorcaravans were parking in the area. They moved into their properties knowing that it was a known parking area for Motorcaravans.

Response: The area has been used for overnight parking by Motorcaravan owners for some years, including pre-covid. The numbers have been increasing and with that comes exacerbated issues relating to litter, waste management and anti-social behaviour. Officers are then tasked with trying to balance the needs of the local residents and businesses with those of visitors by the introduction of traffic management measures.

15. Like to see Motorcaravans parked up as it gives a holiday vibe.

Response: Motorcaravan owners are welcome to continue to park on street within the designated area, as long as they pay the applicable parking fee. This scheme does not prevent that.

16. Motorcaravans are being displaced to neighbouring streets overnight.

Response: If specific locations are reported to the Council, they will be investigated so that further measures can be considered

17. The original location was nowhere near to residential properties and was not causing any problems.

Response: Motorcaravans were often observed parked up near to residential properties. Before this scheme was implemented, the vehicles were parked sporadically throughout the area, they are now concentrated in one area.

18. The scheme is sending out the wrong message, visitors should be welcomed.

Response: Motorcaravan owners are welcome to continue to park on street within the designated area, as long as they pay the applicable parking fee. This scheme does not prevent that. The new location and the fact that the motorcaravan parking is concentrated in one place rather than spread throughout the area, might offer a sense of security to the vehicle owners who choose to park on-street overnight.

Petition – Issues raised within the petition and Officer responses.

- HGVs are not affected so why pick on Motorcaravans?
Response: There are rules pertaining to overnight parking of HGV'S and Buses or PSV's directing that they must be parked overnight at the company operating centre or, if that is not possible, in an appropriate location. Unlike Motorcaravan owners, HGV and PSV vehicle operators can be contacted, and their licences sanctioned if there are ongoing issues regarding where their vehicles are parked. However, overnight HGV and PSV parking is not currently an issue in the Kings Parade / Coastal Drive area.

- Steady incremented restrictions applied in stages discriminating against Motorcaravans.
- **Response: Over the last 3 years, an extensive amount of "No Waiting at Any Time" restrictions have also been introduced in the areas due to obstructive parking taking place during the pandemic. Those restrictions effect all motor vehicles. The primary function of the public highway is to allow for free and expeditious passage for all road users and parking on the highway is an additional benefit afforded only where it can be safely accommodated. It should be noted that maintaining access to, from and along the public highway is a statutory duty of the local authority and this sometimes requires the introduction of parking controls and other traffic management measures.**

- An alternative location should be designated.
- **Response: Alternative sites for off road parking for Motorcaravans will continue to be explored as part of a separate scheme. The draft Neighbourhood Framework has identified a site near the Derby Pool for overnight motorhome parking. Consultation is currently paused due to Local Plan and other emerging strategies including the parking strategy.**

Direct Communications with Ward Members for Wallasey and New Brighton

Ward members for Wallasey and New Brighton met with the Assistant Director for Highways and Infrastructure on 1 December 2022 to discuss the progress of the experimental scheme. A summary of conclusions made at that meeting is as follows:

- The members believe that the scheme has been successful and that the majority of residents are more content.

- The majority of members would prefer the charge be kept at £20 and not changed at the present time.

- Members would like officers to press on with proposals for alternative sites (overnight parking for Motorcaravans) with facilities which could alleviate demand on street in this area.
- Members would like some indication of income benefits into the local business community from motor home users and have suggested a discount scheme with local businesses may incentivise those users who have indicated the charge is too high for overnight parking without facilities. This is something that could potentially be promoted via the payment app so users parking overnight and paying the charge can see which outlets are participating.

Response: Alternative sites for off road parking for Motorcaravans will continue to be explored as part of a separate scheme, as will the viability of a discount scheme for local businesses.

Direct Communications with Ward Members for Hoylake & Meols

Ward members from Hoylake & Meols and local residents have reported a recent issue with Motorcaravans parking up overnight on North Parade and Meols Parade, which is partly unrestricted with no prohibition on overnight motorcaravan parking in place. It appears that some displacement of motorcaravan parking from Kings Parade / Coastal Drive to the Hoylake and Meols area may have occurred due to the ETRO in place.

Response: Recommendation 2b in the report is to introduce a prohibition on overnight parking by Motorcaravans on all sections of unrestricted carriageway on North Parade and Meols Parade to deal with Motorcaravan parking displacement.