
PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS, ARCHERS COURT ROAD, WHITFIELD

To: **Dover Joint Transportation Board – 30 November 2017**

By: **Tim Read, Head of Transportation, Kent County Council**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Whitfield Ward, Dover District**

Summary: **This report gives details of a proposal for waiting restrictions in Archers Court Road, Whitfield and the results of the statutory consultation.**

For Recommendation

1.0 Introduction and Proposal

- 1.1 There is currently a large housing development being built in Whitfield on the outskirts of Dover. During the early part of the construction, the main access route for construction traffic was via Archers Court Road. In order to facilitate the flow of traffic along this road, temporary waiting restrictions (yellow lines) were placed in the road.
- 1.2 The times of the restrictions are Monday-Friday 7:30am-7:00pm and on Saturdays 7:30am-1pm. The restrictions extend, on the northern side of the road, from the existing 'at any time' waiting restrictions by The Archer public house up to the junction with Cranleigh Drive. On the southern side of the road the restrictions extend from the existing 'at any time' restrictions up to no.74. There is a 50m gap in the lines between no.47 & no.53. A plan of the restrictions is shown in Appendix A.
- 1.3 The Parish Council requested for these restrictions to be made permanent, and sent an application form together with payment for statutory consultation as the first part of the legal process for making the Traffic Regulation Order.

2.0 Consultation

- 2.1 A notice of the proposed TRO was placed in KM on 22 September 2017. Letters to statutory consultees and local residents along the affected length of Archers Court Road were sent out on 20 August 2017. A number of notices were placed at intervals along the affected part of road. The closing date for objections and comments was 16 October 2017.

- 2.2 There was a small admin error which meant that the proposal has to be re-advertised. Therefore two amendment numbers are referred to (50 & 51), but they are for the same proposal and comments for both are considered.
- 2.3 9 letters or e-mails were received, as well as one multi-signature letter from residents of Singledge Avenue (32 signatories). five responses were in support and four against. The multi-signature letter was in opposition to the proposal. Copies of all responses can be found in Appendix B, Appendix C and Appendix D.
- 2.4 A summary of comments received (for and against) is shown in the table below:

Comment	KCC response
Improved traffic flow	Removing parking will have the effect of improving traffic flow
Improved bus access	Removing parking will have the effect of improving traffic flow and stopping parking that might inhibit bus access to bus stops.
Although vehicle speed has increased, better sightlines make it easier and safer to cross the road.	Removing parking can improve sightlines.
Easier and safer to exit driveways where restrictions are placed	Removing parking can improve sightlines.
Less parking by workers at local fast food restaurant means they don't drop their litter thus street is cleaner	Although anti-social in nature, if this was previously an issue then removing parking will help prevent this.
Removing the parking has led to increased vehicle speeds.	Improved traffic flow can lead to increased vehicles speeds. Although some vehicles are travelling faster, average speeds are still only slightly above the speed limit.
Parked vehicles act as a form of traffic calming	It was observed that the gap in the lines enables vehicles to park, and this does act as a traffic calming feature.
Visitors are unable to park in the road	Visitors will need to park either off street or in other areas where no restrictions exist.
Now there is no access to Richmond Way, the restrictions are no longer necessary	The Parish Council has requested that these restrictions be made permanent.
Increased speed makes it dangerous to exit driveway	Improved traffic flow can lead to increased vehicles speeds. Greater care when exiting driveway will be needed.
Does not want to 50m gap outside their house as makes it hard to see when existing drive due to parked cars	Parked vehicles either side of a drive can obstruct sightlines, and where restrictions exist elsewhere meaning that people regularly park in the gap, this could pose a persistent issue.
People parked in gap drop litter	This could be an issue resulting from enabling parking, and is an anti-social behaviour.

- 2.5 The petition was from the 32 residents of Singledge Avenue, who are concerned that the restrictions have displaced parking into their road, which makes it very hard to get in and out of drives when cars are parked opposite, and causes access difficulties for larger vehicles. They suggest allowing parking on one side of Archers Court Road.
- 2.6 Despite the objections and comments received, the Parish Council are keen to go ahead and make these restrictions permanent.

- 2.7 A manual speed survey was conducted on 1/11/17 for one hour between 12:08 and 13:08 to gather data to give an indication of vehicle speeds along the road. Only vehicles travelling uninhibited i.e. not held up by parked or turning vehicles were recorded. The results are as follows:

	Eastbound	Westbound
Mean speed	31.4mph	32.1mph
85 th %ile speed	35mph	36mph

- 2.8 On the basis of these results it is proposed that the current restrictions are made permanent.

3.0 Corporate Implications

3.1 Financial and VAT

- 3.1.1 None for Dover District Council.

3.2 Legal

- 3.2.1 None for Dover District Council.

3.3 Corporate

- 3.3.1 None for Dover District Council.

4.0 Recommendation(s)

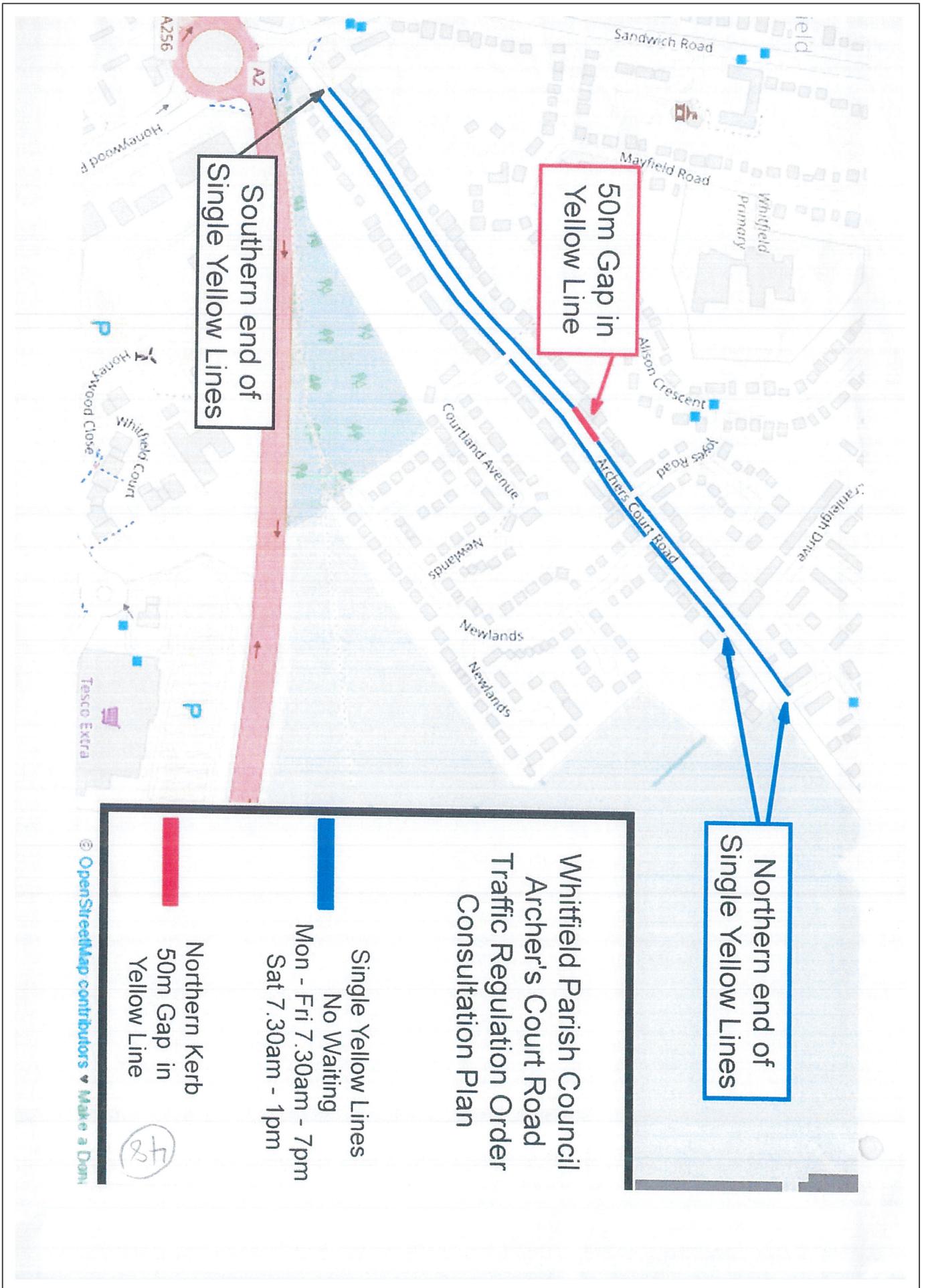
- 4.1 That the waiting restrictions should be made permanent as proposed.

Contact Officer:	Richard Heaps, Schemes Project Manager (Dover), Kent County Council, 03000 418181
Reporting to:	Tim Read, Head of Transportation, Kent County Council, 03000 418181

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
<i>Whole file</i>	<i>Highway Services, Kent County Council</i>

Appendix A – Plan of Proposals



Appendix B – Consultation Responses (Support)

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent:

To: Traffic Regulation Orders - GT

Subject: Waiting Restrictions - Archers Court Road, Whitfield, Dover

Re: The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Dover District) (waiting restrictions and street parking places) amendment no 51 order 2017

We wish to support the above order for the parking restrictions to be made permanent on Archers Court Road Whitfield.

We are residents of Archers Court Road and since the restrictions have been in place we feel the road is much safer, especially in the mornings when it is particularly busy with both cars and pedestrians.

Kind Regards

To: Traffic Regulation Orders - GT
Subject: Dover District Council Waiting Restrictions on Archers Court Road (Amendment No. 50 ORDER 2017)

Dear Sir/Madam

As a resident of Archers Court Road in Whitfield, I would like to express my full support for the implementation of waiting restrictions as set out in the application.

The existing temporary no waiting zone has much improved the flow of traffic in the road, as vehicle parking was disruptive to residents' access onto and off the road. Farming machinery and the local buses were always finding it difficult to navigate around the myriad of parked vehicles along the road.

Yours faithfully

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent:

To: Traffic Regulation Orders - GT

Subject: Archers Court Road, ,Whitfield

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the details re waiting restrictions on Archers Court Road.

I wish to support the Order which would introduce "at any time" waiting restrictions permanently on Archers Court Road. Since these restrictions were introduced as a temporary measure, the flow of traffic along this road has been much better and driving in and out of one's property extremely easy.

Yours faithfully,

From:
Sent:
To: Traffic Regulation Orders - GT
Subject: Amendment No. 51 Order 2017

Dear Mr Heaps,

With reference to the permanent waiting restrictions to Archers Court Road, Whitfield.

I fully support making the single yellow lines permanent in Archers Court Road for the following reasons:

Since the temporary introduction of lines the traffic conditions have improved. Archers Court Road has a clear line of site, from approximately Courtland Avenue down to the roundabout by the Archer Public House. This enables the free flow of traffic and allows the bus to be able to safely stop outside of No.1, without danger to pedestrians or car users

There appears to be better conditions for pedestrians to cross the road by the underpass, also close to the Archer Public House. This may be due to the improved visibility now there are no parked cars.

It is much safer trying to access the road from local drive ways rather than trying to pull out between poorly parked cars.

The road appears to be cleaner, as many of the staff from Macdonalds used to park on the roadside and throw food packaging and used hair nets onto the street.

The only downside is that certain individuals tend to race along Archers Court Road still. Maybe this may be resolved with speed bumps when the annex to Whitfield and Aspen primary school opens in the near future.

Thank you for your time.

Regards

From:
Sent:
To: Traffic Regulation Orders - GT
Subject: Waiting restrictions and street parking places. Amendment no.51 ORDER 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Support for the Parking Restrictions on Archers Court Road

I am sending this email as confirmation for my support for the single yellow lines that are presently in place along Archers Court Road.

Since these yellow lines have been implemented the traffic flows more readily, especially during peak hours.

The bus is now able to navigate without obstructions along the road. Very often cars parked opposite the bus stop and also at the bus stop, preventing the bus from stopping in its correct place and causing further traffic congestion.

The road is also now a safer place to cross, cars still speed along this road, but at least now you have a clearer chance of seeing them, rather than trying to cross between parked cars.

I also feel the speeding issues also need addressing, especially with the proposed school plans which will be possibly implemented next year.

Kind Regards,

Appendix C – Consultation Responses (Object)

From:

Sent:

To: Traffic Regulation Orders - GT

Subject: The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Dover District) (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) Amendment No.51 Order 2017

Dear Sir

We hereby object to the above order for Archers Court Road, Whitfield on the following grounds:

1. Anybody visiting properties, even for a very short time, cannot park in the road.
2. Now that the road is clear of parked vehicles, traffic is travelling significantly faster, above 30mph.
3. Now access to Richmond Way is closed from Archers Court Road, the restrictions do not need to be made permanent.

To stop workers parking all day at the top of the road while going off to work in shared transport, why can't parking be restricted to say 2 or 4 hours at any one time.

Yours faithfully

From:

Sent:

To: Traffic Regulation Orders - GT

Subject: The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Dover District) (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) Amendment No. 50 Order 2017

In respect of the above Order, my objection is that there is a 50 metre gap in the single yellow line along Archers Court Road between no. 47 and no. 55. Since the introduction of the yellow lines in Archers Court Road, there has been a great improvement in road safety. However, I am at a loss to understand the following:-

- i) Why it is necessary to have a gap, and
- ii) Why the gap is between no. 47 and no. 55, and how was this decision reached

It is now very difficult to exit my property safely, as there is nearly always vehicles parked either side of my drive. On many occasions, these vehicles are parked there for days at a time, mostly during Monday-Fridays. On one occasion, a car parked to the right of my property was hit and damaged by a passing vehicle and shunted across my drive, giving me no access. This was not resolved until the owner of the vehicle arrived, some hours later.

At the weekend, a very common occurrence is that drivers pick up a take-away meal from McDonalds and then park outside my property to eat it, leaving their litter either in my garden or on the pavement outside.

Please can you take into consideration my objection, and reply to my two points above. **I am particularly interested to hear how the decision was made that the gap should be where it is and therefore disadvantage the residents in numbers 47 to 55, and also affect the residents who live opposite these numbers.**

Thank you.

From:

Sent:

To: Traffic Regulation Orders - GT

Subject: Amendment No.50 order 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the yellow lines remaining in Archers Court Road Whitfield Dover Kent.

I object for following reasons:

The speed of which the vehicles are now travelling down the road unhindered by any parked cars.

It is now very dangerous to come in or out of the drive.

Double decked buses are now using the road when it has always been single decked and you want see them trying to go round Joyes Road.

The yellow lines should not have been there in the first place, they were only put in place to aid lorry access for the new housing estate. When lorries for the building of that estate were not supposed to be using Archers Court Road for access.

I can't believe I am writing this but parked cars will actually slow the traffic and save lives. We never really had a problem with parked cars, but now that we don't have any you only need to stand in my driveway to see the speed at which vehicles are travelling down the road. I don't care what the police say I have witnessed it myself regularly.

What will happen is what has happened on Sandwich Road, you will have to install speed bumps at the tax payers cost and I believe they cause increased pollution.

The residents association said how nice it was to have clear run through when the majority of them do not live on Archers Court Road. It should be about the residents of Archers Court Road not the people speeding through it.

The simple fact is this is encouraging speeding and making it dangerous for the residents of Archers Court Road.

Yours faithfully

To: Traffic Regulation Orders - GT
Subject: TRO

Dear Sir / Madam,

I currently live at XXXXXXXX and my house is directly situated on Archers Court Road.

I am opposed to the TRO for the following reasons;

Whilst this has assisted in less congestion near to Sandwich Road, what it has created is an issue with speeding vehicles at the opposite end. I cannot even begin to say how many times i see daily the speed indication device illuminate for vehicles entering the village.

The TRO has created a scenario that has allowed a wide open road which road users are exploiting by driving at excess speed. I have also witnessed vehicles observing the speed limit being overtaken by speeding vehicles, i have seen this both entering and leaving the village and both during the day and late evening. I have grave concerns that there will soon be a school built nearby forcing children to cross this dangerous road.

There is no speed deterrent in place, i would urge you to look at the data from the speed indication device to appreciate the scale of the problem. Occasionally another device is installed on the road which highlights the speed a vehicle is travelling at, sadly this is like a red rag to a bull as it encourages people to drive even faster. I have openly heard younger drivers boasting in the local shop about how high they can set it off. When i park my vehilcle outside my house on Archers Court Road there is a noticeable decline in speeding vehicles and this also prevents overtaking.

I trully feel that some form of speed camera is installed to make the road safer. It is only a matter of time before something sinister happens, without the TRO people will be more inclined to park on the road which will increase safety.

Regards

Appendix D – Consultation Responses (Multiple Signature Letter)

Traffic Schemes Team, KCC , Ashford Highway Department,
Javelin Way, Ashford. TN24 8AD.

From

28 September 2017.

To:

Dear Sir,

I am making an objection to the intention to make a permanent 'no parking' order in Archer's Court Road in Whitfield, near Dover, on behalf of the residents of Singledge Avenue in Whitfield. This is in addition to the objection sent at the end of last year to our Parish Council, which they passed on to you, with the original signatures of all the residents of our road. I am enclosing a copy of those signatures.

Prior to the temporary order car drivers parked in Archer's Court Road, particularly the Archer Public House end, for a variety of reasons, some to catch the National Express to London or ordinary bus to Canterbury, some to use a car share to work, some for somewhere to leave their car while they worked at McDonalds, the petrol station and the car wash, and some were customers at the pub when it's car park was full.

There is no public car park in that area and when the temporary no parking order was made in Archers Court road these people had nowhere to park and they turned to the nearest alternative roads such as Courtland Avenue and in particular to our road, Singledge Avenue.

This has presented us with problems, particularly as our road is only 16 feet wide, kerb to kerb, against 21 feet 6 inches wide in Archers Court road. The latter can have a line of parked cars and still have two way traffic, we cannot. In fact at times larger vehicles, such as dustbin lorries, delivery trucks and even an ambulance have had difficulty in getting through, particularly when vehicles are parked on a corner or close to the junction with Sandwich road. Increased numbers have led to parking directly opposite driveways where the narrowness of the road makes it difficult for householders to get their own cars in and out.

Everyone in the road has their own tales to tell of the consequence of increased parking.

There is an obvious need for parking near the Whitfield roundabout and no doubt there has been problems with parking in Archers Court road in the past, but this was due to indiscriminate and unstructured parking leading to problems for buses etc..

A solution that would address all needs would be to allow parking in Archers Court road on one side only, still leaving plenty of room for traffic to pass in both directions. It seems the best side for parking is the south side with no parking on the north side. It only needs to extend from the roundabout to Cranleigh Drive, this being the bus route. Parking restrictions from then on into the countryside seems pointless.

I ask you to consider the effects on side roads such as ours of any decision that you make while bearing in mind the needs of drivers for parking near the roundabout.

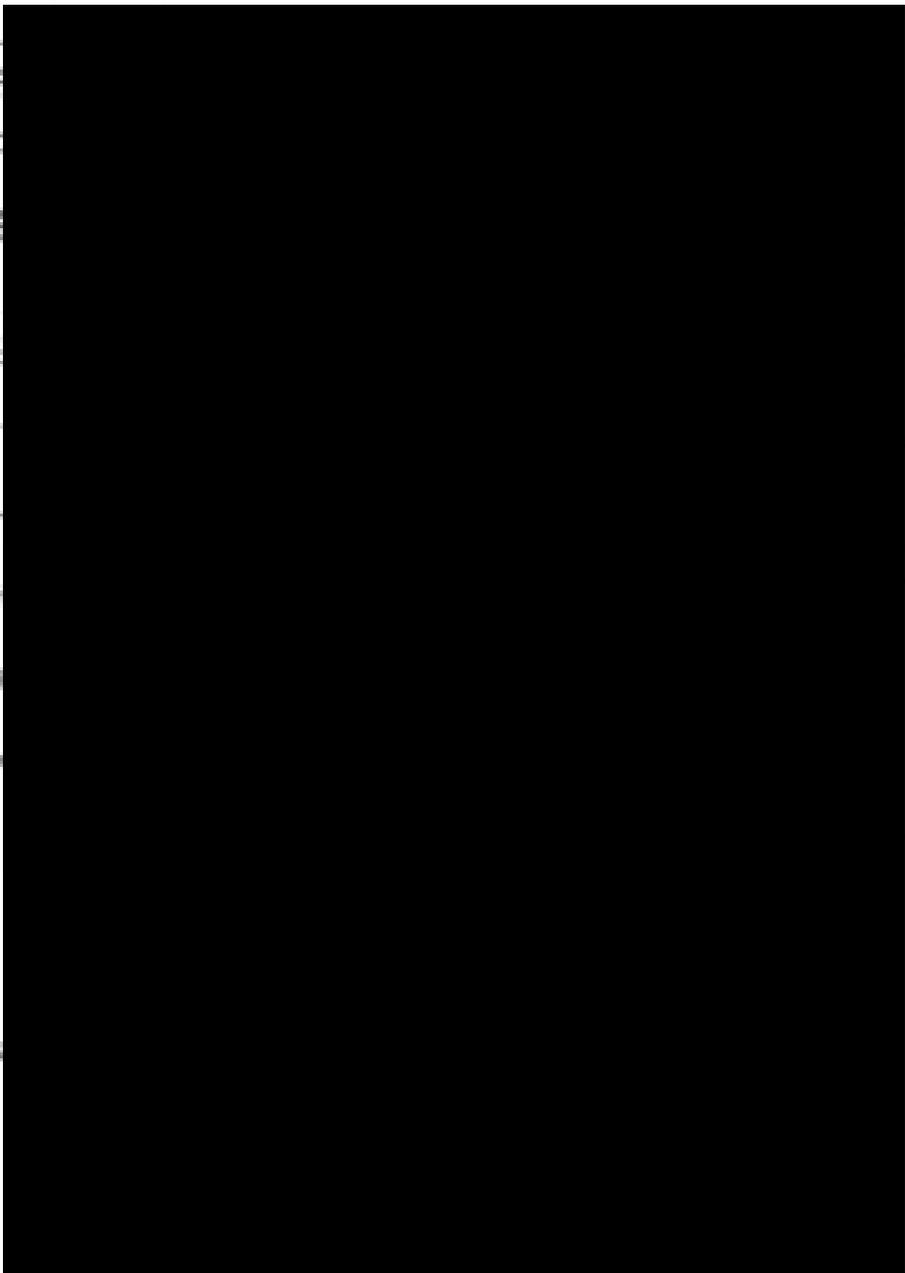
Yours sincerely,



difficult for householders to get their car in or out.

All the above are the inevitable, if unintended, consequences of a parking ban in Archers Court Road and form a basis for objections to making it permanent and a request for the Council to reconsider its intentions.

Signed by the following residents of Singledegre Avenue

<i>Nº</i>		<i>Nº</i>
32		1
31		2
30		42A
29		3
28		4
27		5
26		6
25		7
24		8
23		9
22		11
21		1
20		12
19		1
18		14
17		15
	16	