

Summary of Key Points Raised by Reponders

(Proposed Overnight Motor Caravan Parking Prohibition, Walmer Seafront)

Response to proposals: Objections 33, Support 50.

Response from Clerk to Walmer Parish Council:

Councillors considered your proposal at their meeting last night and were largely supportive. The only reservation they had was that the problem will simply be shifted elsewhere – most probably neighbouring streets such as Granville Road. At one point there was talk of the possibility of opening up Borrow Pit car park to overnight stays. Has any more happened on that?

Key points raised by Objectors:

- My small VW motor caravan is under 4.6 meters in length and is my only mode of transport. I would agree with a ban of overnight parking, 10pm -6am, however I strongly object to being excluded from enjoying this area because of my vehicle type
- It causes no harm and brings money to the local businesses through the tourism.
- Occasionally we choose to camp in our van along this road and the children love the camping out. We always clean up after ourselves and harm no one
- Any proposal related to the banning of Camper Vans along the associated road is illegal. One should also take note that many persons including camper and vans lifers etc. Often go FISHING. Kayaking. Boarding, Twitchers and so on along that stretch. Many park up all night as I have done on many occasions in over 50 years!. Every Highway in the UK has always facilitated overnight stopping venues for ALL. This is and has always been a historic and traditional right of all throughout the land. YET would answer YES to Aires and other Expanded parking solutions that WILL provide Economical benefits for all!
- I own a camper myself, which I use as my every day vehicle and having been a member of the Downs Sailing Club for the past 45 years, kitesurfer, surfer, paddle-boarder, kayaker and fisherman, I use those parking areas you mention on a regular basis to participate in my activities
- If overnight parking was to be restricted, surely it would make more sense to start the restriction at 10 pm so that motorhomers (who bring revenue to the town) could park along the sea front and enjoy evenings walking along the promenade or using the beach etc. If, for example, a motorhome is a person's only vehicle they are being prejudiced against
- it would discourage people and families to visit this lovely tourist area. If there's a conspiracy to protect residents' sea view, it's a bit poor
- It will be detrimental to Deal and safeguard its tourism future. This may be more of a Nimbism venture to look after a person's singular view etc. In-between the road in question are two major historical buildings along with attractive gardens and an amazing coastal pathway. The potential to harm income from the two has clearly been ignored. It will impact those that have disabilities!
- I am appalled by the actions of a growing number of people, but surely, targeting one group of vehicles whether guilty or not is close to discrimination. The vast majority of genuine campers are decent and law-abiding people. Some, myself included, have plans to live in their vehicles full time, we want to exist in peace, be accepted, and enjoy life, so it makes no sense for us to make a nuisance of ourselves.
- Do you not understand people with Motorhome's visit for the day or stay for just a night I live local and often spend the day and evening in Deal and use my Motorhome. We use all the local business: Breakfast, lunch, out for dinner and drinks in various pubs. Are you going to provide motor home parking elsewhere? Please do not suggest a campsite as I am not camping.
- I see no reason why perfectly ordinary people in camper Van's should be prevented from parking. I have a number of friends who chose to live this way. They are not gypsies, just people who work hard, pay taxes and chose an alternative lifestyle
- I have parked in these restricted areas on several occasions and fully enjoyed the experience, I would also like to say that I believe it is very short sighted on your part as this DOES bring revenue to the area I have used the restaurants, public houses and also the Hotels
- I have a small camper and like to go to Kingsdown with friends to swim and also kayaking if the restrictions are put in place it means that I would have to leave my friends at six therefore spoiling

the day. I understand that you may not want campers there overnight or that some may be leaving rubbish a such behind but why you could it not be from 9pm till 6am

- Motorhome owners bring much needed tourism to the town and surrounding area, contributing to the local economy by using local business and attractions. There have been no issues with regards to the occupants of these vehicles and no changes to the amount of litter or dog fouling, in my experience. Motorhomes should not be excluded in preference of a person staying in a B&B or hotel, this is an unfair expectation made by owners of such businesses. There are no other suitable and convenient parking areas for these vehicles, with many other parking in the area having height restrictions or no overnight stays in place thus excluding these vehicles. Motorhomes have parked on the seafront for as long as I can remember and I have not experienced any issues with them. Motorhomes are subject to UK motor vehicle tax and should be able to park on a road if they choose, providing they are not causing an obstruction or contravening any existing restrictions such as yellow lines (which they do not, in my experience).
- If normal intelligent and respectful motorhomers or campervans are stopped from staying overnight, it will just mean they are staying elsewhere, more remotely. It is far better for all motorhomers and campervanners to have access to safe places of refuge. I have travelled some days and am too exhausted to look for somewhere sensible to stop after searching for hours and I am too poor to pay to stay in the sites which are now very expensive. It is a shame the few ignorant litter louts are turning this in to a us and them situation. It is a shame communities cannot accept and encourage people who wish to travel on holiday around the U.K. and could contribute to the local economy
- It is an unnecessary restriction on civil liability and hurts potential income to the local economy
- I believe this to be totally unjustified, campervans pay road tax and should be allowed to park anywhere. We also bring in money for the locals pubs and restaurants etc.
- As motorhome owners this order will restrict the rights, as law abiding, road tax paying, responsible motorhome owners, to park and stay on Deal seafront, overnight if they so wish. We do not believe the issues caused by such owners outweigh the benefits to Deal, our reputation as a beautiful, welcoming town or our local economy. There are no suitable alternatives in the location to enable those motorcaravan owners to stay and enjoy the town, views or hospitality beyond 6p.m. and for anything more than a day visit, which will add to the increasing volume of traffic using the Deal Road. Visitors to Deal and The Downs Sailing Club come from other parts of the country and on occasions, the Continent. They have up until now, enjoyed the fact that staying in the very near vicinity in their motorcaravan enables them to bring their families, enjoy the event, including evening social activities, to the full without fear of being "moved on" for the duration of the event, enduring extortionate parking fees or fines experienced in other less welcoming venues. Do we really want Deal's reputation to be tarnished in the same way? This order is being proposed partly due to the unfortunate actions of the travelling community in recent months, motorcaravan owners who live in their vehicles and choose to remain on the seafront for weeks/months at a time, who, without the necessary facilities, leave litter and worse, spoiling the environment for everyone. This issue should be dealt with proportionately and not tarnish or penalise the majority of law abiding and considerate owners who do not leave disposable BBQ's, bottles etc. behind. Why are only motorcaravans being prohibited from parking between 6pm and 6am, could not a row of HGV's arrive and park in the same areas overnight? With the exception of this year, we have welcomed the Fair annually to Deal, staying on the Green for the week. Why are motorcaravan owners different? If Dover District want to make a real difference then provision of suitable overnight parking for motorcaravan owners on land already used for parking on the seafront near Granville Road, with appropriate facilities i.e. water, electricity and Chemical Toilet and rubbish disposal at a reasonable nightly cost would be much more beneficial, encouraging visitors instead of alienating them.
- I don't feel these vehicles pose any issues at all and actually bring much needed revenue for the town. I live in Ramsgate and often drive to Deal to enjoy the beaches. I own a standard van, which I use for work and it worries me that this starts with campers and then some DFL resident decides they don't like seeing vans parked there, the older cars and I wonder where all this stops
- I see no reason why they cannot park there. They have valid road tax and pay council tax. Why are they being banned? Tourism is good for the area. They rarely stay for long and it's only during the summer months.

Key points raised by Supporters:

- Camper vans have previously disposed of their liquid waste outside Lord Warden Estate
- We have lived on The Beach, for 20 years and in that time there have been many issues with camper vans staying overnight and some actually living in their vans on the seafront. All culminating in the antisocial behaviour from Traveller encampment last summer
- This will enable visitors to enjoy our town during the day and also deter others from using it as a campsite and long term parking area for their campers
- This will benefit both visitors and residents alike
- My mother has lived on The Beach for many years and feels that it is being used as a free campsite and takes up valuable parking for local and visitors to enjoy Walmer Green
- They are a health hazard as they leave a lot of rotting waste in the gutters. We have seen rats eating disposable nappies left in the gutter, which is a serious hazard to humans. They are also a danger to children as we have seen many children trying to cross the street here and being nearly run down by fast cars who cannot see pedestrians beside or behind the enormous camper vans
- I am confronted every day with camper vans staying up to a week and that is my view. The mess they leave is not environment friendly. and the privacy of our lives is taken away. I respect that people need holidays but there are sites for these vans.
- There can be a string of 3 or 4 parked one in front of the other, blocking access for residents and other users of the Green, beach, sailing club etc. Motorhomes are often parked on the road for days, occasionally weeks. By parking on the narrow part of the road, they cause an obstruction. Residents are concerned about the anti-social behaviour of some of the owners who fail to take their rubbish away and leave it on the Green. It's not unusual for toilets to be emptied into the drains in the road and wastewater discharged into the road.
- Please note we strongly object to Motor Caravans being parked at anytime in front of our Property in Lord Warden Avenue for privacy and safety reasons as we are ground floor sea facing. The road is narrow and the traffic is very fast along this stretch of road. It would be very dangerous for motor caravans to be allowed to park here as there is no room for two way traffic when overtaking which could lead to serious traffic conditions. Furthermore there is a very large car park on Kingsdown Road on the opposite side which could be used
- Every year the number of vans is increasing, some with generators running all night
- This is an extremely dangerous curving road which carries a speed limit of 40mph. The camper vans simply present a further obstacle when parked back to back, as they often are during the summer months. There is a perfectly adequate car park with toilets less than 50yds away for them to use
- I would add that if this proposal was recommended it would not be at the expense of these vehicles being parked overnight in the Bottom Hole car park ,although the gate should be locked at 8 30 pm this doesn't always happen ! Many motor caravans park almost daily setting up tables and chairs for the day taking up at least 3 car parking spaces in Bottom Hole car park totally ignoring the sign post which clearly shows no parking for motor caravans, coaches, lorries, trailers etc . I know this does happen as i live opposite the car park !
- Would speed restriction signs also be considered on the long straight road which is The Beach.Excessive speeds are frequent and in view of the number of children and dogs daily on the green we feel that an accident is bound to happen.
- It's lovely to see people coming to enjoy the seaside, but I do object Camper Vans parking for days using The Beach as a camp site!!
- Motor Caravans park often for days and sometimes weeks along The Beach instead of using designated campsites. Not only does this block other visitors wishing to park but much worse, they regularly leave food waste on the grass as well as leaving other general waste on the morning of their departure and on other occasions have even left dirty nappies behind. Although reduced in numbers, motor homes even continued to park up during lockdown with owners treating the pandemic as an opportunity for a seaside holiday.
- I would ask you to consider extending the area covered by the ban to include the residential roads immediately adjacent to & behind The Beach to prevent the motor caravans moving only a short distance & causing congestion in these roads, some of which are quite narrow
- Over recent years the number of motor caravans parking there has increased considerably as has the size of many of the vehicles. Some are abandoned for days or weeks at a time and others used for overnight accommodation in an area not suitable for the purpose.. Too many occupants find it acceptable to leave rubbish (and worse!) at the roadside or on the green when they leave. In many ways I would prefer a total ban but in fairness most who stay for a few hours during the day cause few problems and I can understand their wish to enjoy a beautiful location

- Although I have only lived here for a year I have found the impact of motor homes parking in front of the house overnight to be a real nuisance. Not only do they take up a larger parking space than one car would take which makes it difficult for residents to park, but they leave their rubbish piled up next to the bins. The most unhygienic aspect is when they empty their toilet waste down the drains
- They have been disruptive, unrespectful of health and safety issues, cleanliness, rubbish collection and noise.
- Please, recognise the problems camper vans have been causing over the years, causing a road restriction in the narrower part of The Beach between the Strand and the Julius Caesar memorial. mess left behind, parking up for days, sometimes weeks, bringing their own food etc thus not contributing to the local economy etc. Please can we get rid of these abominations for good into the car park by Walmer Castle.
- For much of the year, this beautiful conservation area has become like a camping site, with many vans lined up along the front. , I have on several occasions been woken by the noise of caravans starting their engines at 5am, or even earlier, either to move off or to get their heaters working. And since they are often painted in a highly reflective white, they cause an intrusive brilliant glare when they park beneath the new LED streetlights.
- We strongly objected to the rubbish left behind, to the blocked drains, to the washing lines, the loud music, the fact that some vans stayed for more than a week, that some local residents free parked their caravans over the winter months etc
- I hope this will come into effect as quickly as possible with my main concern being your ability and willingness to enforce it
- The problem has become considerably worse over recent years with vehicle owners showing little or no regard for the area and causing an increase in unsightly rubbish, often just left on the grass verge or in the gutter, and showing little or no concern for the residents
- This is required to deter campers from using it as a campsite. Campers are left for days while campers go off sightseeing. Most are clean but many leave rubbish behind. It also takes vital spaces for parking for visitors to Deal and also local people. Most cars stay for an hour or so, to enjoy our beautiful town and move on, enabling more people to take advantage of Walmer/Deal. The more people who visit, the more revenue for the town. This is a perfect compromise for residents and visitors alike.
- The prohibition should address the difficulties we have encountered over the years with inconsiderate motor home users without deterring tourists from visiting our lovely beach during the day.
- It is getting impossible to drive safely in some parts of the road because of the campers parked down there.
- The prohibition should also apply to non-motorized caravans, which have on occasions been parked on The Beach for several days. We consider it essential to display a telephone number so that infringements can be notified to the appropriate authority
- We have witnessed several children having near misses with cars along this seafront as they are hidden by the multiple caravans when trying to cross the road and are in serious danger. We have also suffered a lot of noise nuisance with vans parking overnight and playing loud music into the night. There are no proper toilet facilities along Walmer Seafront so I am afraid to say there has been a lot of anti-social urinating on the front at night and we found tissue paper in the hedges and very bad smells. We assume the worst, which is a risk to public health.
- This will return the seafront parking to residents of Deal and its visitors and stop it being turned into a free caravan site all year
- We feel that the proposed initiative is a fair compromise which allows motor caravan visitors the enjoyment of the beach during daytime hours, yet deters them from converting the road into an unofficial camping site overnight.
- The list of problems they cause is many and where they bring their own food and drink with them they do not contribute to the local economy. A few examples of the problems they cause: Pouring their sewage directly onto the road ; Parking for days, sometimes over a week on the road taking up valuable parking spaces for residents and those in cars visiting that will spend money in the local economy rather than bringing their own "supplies"; Leaving their rubbish behind on the green, even putting rubbish bags outside peoples front gates; Parking one side of their vehicle on the grass to level out the camber; Having barbecues on the green, using the green as an extension of their motor home. No one has a problem with people visiting the town, enjoying the pubs and restaurants, putting money into the local economy but the motor homes don't contribute and just cause problems and in many cases leave a mess when they have gone