



TEMPLE EWELL PARISH COUNCIL

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Gordon Measey
Parking Operations Manager
Dover District Council

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Proposed Parking Prohibition – Alkham Valley Road, Temple Ewell

The Parish Council is deeply concerned regarding the above proposals, which in broad terms propose (if properly enforced) to help eliminate the danger to through traffic caused by parked vehicles. Regardless of suggestions to use other means of transport, most people will still visit the Kearsney Abbey area by car. The proposed extent of double yellow lines will therefore simply exacerbate existing and similar issues in other areas of Temple Ewell, notably in Lower Road.

Our own Highways Improvement Plan which was based on feedback from our parishioners, was submitted to Kent Highways in December last year and highlighted the problems experienced by residents of Lower Road. These include cars perceived to be those of people visiting Kearsney Abbey parking across private driveways, in positions that restrict traffic flow and create danger in what is a narrow road with a blind bend beneath the railway viaduct, and in many places with no footpath for pedestrians. One of the solutions being considered is to make Lower Road a one-way street, and to re-model the junction with Alkham Valley Road in an attempt to overcome the obstructive parking frequently seen close to the Kearsney Bus Stop.

We have similar fears in relation to this proposal impacting on the level of on-street parking along London Road, Temple Ewell. This is particularly in proximity to the busy and dangerous junction with Alkham Valley Road. The current planning application for the Railway Bell Public House site, will if granted see the loss of off-street parking spaces and increase on-street parking in both London Road and Kearsney Avenue.

The Railway Bell application also alludes to need for a pedestrian crossing on London Road, with the proposed location being at a point immediately North of the Alkham Valley Road junction; this will assist in crossing London Road, but then leaves pedestrians faced with moving along the North side of Alkham Valley Road, part of which has no pavement. This is the route that you are now suggesting people utilising the overflow parking provision at Kearsney Campsite should use!

Clearly, the current proposed car parking provision of just 112 spaces at Kearsney Abbey is not sufficient, and extra parking spaces, especially on summer weekends and during the school holidays are required. We would ask you to consider the following:

- Approaching the owners of Kearsney Manor who have previously indicated that they might be able to make some of the parking spaces in their recently enlarged car park available in the evening and at weekends.

- Explore the possibilities of purchasing the plot of land by Bushy Ruff which is currently up for sale, with a view to establishing additional parking spaces there.
- Look at establishing additional parking spaces on-site at Kearsney Abbey/Bushy Ruff/Russell Gardens, which can be used during peak periods.

The whole Kearsney Abbey project seems to have ground to a halt, and clearly requires a new input of energy. It is a matter of urgency that the toilets are re-opened along with having the café in operation. The completion of the parking areas and getting them fully opened to the public also needs to be a priority as this has clearly made an often difficult problem of parked cars on the side of the Alkham Valley Road far worse.

We would ask that if the proposal for double yellow line restrictions is approved, then it is looked at in conjunction with the adjacent areas that will be directly impacted on as a result, and consultation with Kent Highways who are our partners in relation to the Highways Improvement Plan for the area. As a minimum, we believe that a Residents Parking Scheme should be considered, with regular visits from your enforcement team, along Lower Road, Temple Ewell.

We are happy to attend a site meeting, if it is felt this would help.

Yours sincerely

Glenn Mousley
Chairman