

REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

TO: COLNE AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

DATE: 9 MARCH 2016

Report Author: Sandra Farnell
Tel. No: 01282 661053
E-mail: sandra.farnell@pendle.gov.uk

NEWTOWN STREET AREA OF COLNE – PARKING PROBLEMS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

Following a request from this committee in January 2015, this report advises members of the latest information regarding parking in the Newtown Street area of Colne and recommends future arrangements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That members consider removing two of the four disabled parking bays on Cross Skelton Street Car Park.
- (2) That, following consultation with the NHS, up to a maximum of 20 dispensations be issued for a six-month trial period to medical personnel within Colne Health Centre.
- (3) Subject to (2), that members consider issuing up to a maximum of 20 dispensations for a six-month trial period to medical personnel to be used on Dockray Street Car Park.
- (4) Subject to (2) and (3), that the usage of the dispensations be monitored and a report reviewing the parking be brought back to this Committee in six months.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To increase the number of long-stay parking bays available in this town centre location.
- (2) To alleviate the on-street parking in and around Colne Health Centre.

BACKGROUND

1. There have previously been enquiries from the residents of Bence Street to have residents-only parking, although these have never been progressed.
2. The new health centre opened on 19 May 2014.

3. It was reported that visitors to nearby services, such as Newtown Nursey and the police station, were using the car park.
4. In January 2015 a meeting was held with local residents and representatives from Newtown Nursery School, the police, Housing Pendle and NHS Property Services regarding parking issues in the Newtown Street area of Colne, including the health centre car park.
5. It was reported that the health centre car park was restricted to use for patients only and was operated by a two-hour disc parking scheme. Subsequently, staff were having to park on the neighbouring streets along with residents and visitors to the nursery. Some drivers were also using the car park as a “rat run” to get from Newtown Street to St John Street.

It was resolved:

- “(1) That the Engineering and Special Projects Manager be requested to submit a report to a future meeting based on the discussions at the public meeting and including the use of dispensations for the health centre staff on the Dockray Street and/or Cross Skelton Street car parks.
- (2) That the Engineering and Special Projects Manager be asked to undertake a survey to establish the number of vehicles using the health centre car park as a rat run.
- (3) That the possibility of introducing a one-way system on some of the streets in the Newtown Street area of Colne be referred to the County’s Traffic Liaison meeting for consideration.

REASON

To find ways to alleviate the parking problems in the area.

6. Resolution (3) was referred to the Traffic Liaison Meeting on 14 January 2015. The group discussed various matters including parking on West Street, the possible introduction of a one-way system and echelon parking on Newtown Street. It was agreed that H-bar markings would be added to all dropped kerbs in the area and that Lancashire Parking Services would monitor these. It was also agreed that the group could not support the introduction of one-way and echelon parking on Newtown as this would encourage increased speeding and would not necessarily increase the parking capacity.
7. The health centre carried out their own surveys to ascertain the parking habits of the staff that regularly used the centre. This information has been passed to Pendle Council officers and has been used as part of this report to provide information on the parking in the Newtown area and on the health centre car park and nearby Cross Skelton Street Car Park.

ISSUE

8. Parking surveys were carried out over six consecutive days in January 2016. The surveys were conducted every two hours from 9am through to 5pm (including Saturday). Detailed results of the parking duration survey are available on request.
9. A plan showing the area surveyed and the extent of the proposed residents’ parking bays can be found in Appendices 1 (Colne Health Centre Car Park and Newtown) and 2 (Cross Skelton Street Car Park).

Survey Results

11. The tables below indicate the percentage of parking spaces taken on each of the visits.

Newtown Street, Bence Street and West Street

Newtown Street, Bence Street and West Street					
	9am	11am	1pm	3pm	5pm
Mon	82%	77%	77%	77%	62%
Tues	82%	87%	77%	72%	26%
Weds	72%	82%	67%	69%	54%
Thurs	85%	85%	74%	77%	59%
Fri	85%	72%	72%	64%	28%
Sat	33%	No Visit	26%	No Visit	21%

See Appendix 1 for a plan of this area.

12. There are approximately 40 available parking spaces on Newtown Street, West Street and Bence Street. For the purposes of the survey, these have been marked on the plan, although there are no actual parking bays on site. It should also be noted that there is, on occasion, parking outside of these bays, particularly around the junction of Newtown Street and West Street.
13. On the whole, parking in this location was near to capacity all day although it did become quieter at the end of the day. It was significantly quieter on the Saturday visit, which would reflect the residents' comments that the on-street parking is only a problem during the working week.
14. In the main, there was always available space for parking on Bence Street and several of the vehicles that were parked there have been identified as probably belonging to residents.
15. On some occasions during the 3pm visit, the junction of Newtown and West Street was very busy due to children being collected from the nearby Newton Nursery. This was mirrored to a lesser degree on the Colne Health Centre Car Park where the capacity habitually increased from the 1pm visit to the 3pm visit. However, it did not result in the Colne Health Centre Car Park being over-utilised nor did it, in my opinion, cause a problem with a reduction in parking availability of visitors to the health centre.
16. There was no evidence during these times of the car park being used as a rat run (see paragraphs 32 and 33 for further justification of this).

Cross Skelton Street Car Park

Cross Skelton Street Car Park					
	9am	11am	1pm	3pm	5pm
Mon	78%	90%	90%	80%	48%
Tues	60%	75%	70%	88%	25%
Weds	65%	85%	80%	95%	40%
Thurs	83%	95%	88%	68%	60%
Fri	43%	90%	88%	80%	50%
Sat	33%	No Visit	78%	No Visit	50%

See Appendix 2 for a plan of this car park.

17. There are 40 parking spaces available on Cross Skelton Street Car Park; four of these are for disabled drivers only.

18. The car park was busy all day and on several occasions the same vehicles could be seen parking. This would seem to reflect the results of the health centre staff survey in as far as this car park was identified as being used by several staff members from the health centre.
19. The disabled parking bays were under-used.
20. It was also still moderately well used at the weekend.
21. It is recommended that this car park remains a long-stay car park. It is also recommended that members consider removing two of the four disabled parking bays on this car park in order to increase the long-stay capacity.

Colne Health Centre Car Park

Colne Health Centre Car Park					
	9am	11am	1pm	3pm	5pm
Mon	55%	42%	37%	49%	38%
Tues	33%	45%	31%	48%	28%
Weds	34%	39%	35%	49%	27%
Thurs	46%	41%	34%	46%	25%
Fri	26%	36%	45%	48%	38%
Sat	2%	No Visit	2%	No Visit	11%

See Appendix 1 for a plan of this car park.

21. There are 85 parking spaces available on the Colne Health Centre Car Park. Eight of these are for disabled drivers only and 16 are for doctors (bays 30–36 and bays 77–85), with bays being marked accordingly on site.
22. In addition, there are dispensation for five NHS maintenance vehicles, which are only used intermittently and seven other users (the use of which is managed by the Health Centre Manager).
23. Apart from the Doctor dispensations, there are no other dispensations for staff working within the health centre. The Council has previously been contacted by staff, including the district nurses, with regard to parking.
24. The survey results show that the car park is currently under-utilised. On only one occasion was there more than 50 per cent capacity (38 parking bays available). Subject to the agreement with the health centre, I would recommend that we introduce limited additional parking dispensations for staff (up to a maximum of 20 dispensations). These dispensations, however, should be managed by the health centre with assistance from Pendle Council's Transport and Coordination Manager and should be used ONLY by staff that are in and out of the office habitually. They should not be used by staff who are office based.
25. From the survey kindly produced by the health centre, it is clear that some staff are using the Cross Skelton Street and Midgely Street Car Parks (Midgely Street Car Park was not surveyed on this occasion). It has, however, been noted that the Midgely Street Car Park is regularly full. This may also be due to Colne Lane Car Park recently being altered to two and a half hours disc-only parking.
26. Appendix 3 is a plan showing the walking distances from Cross Skelton Street Car Park and Midgely Street Car Park. It also shows the walking distance from Dockray Street Car Park.

27. It is 261 metres from Midgley Street Car Park to the health centre and 269 metres from the Dockray Street Car Park to the health centre.
28. Since the health centre was relocated in May 2014, the Dockray Street Car Park has been under used.
29. This car park has 90 bays and is two and a half hours disc-only parking. Surveys were conducted on this car park in April 2014 and July 2014 prior to and following the move to the new health centre where it showed that the average usage of the car park went from 50 bays (42 per cent capacity) in April 2014 to 29 bays (25 per cent capacity) in July 2014.

Dockray Street Car park: 90 Bays															
	Mon			Tues			Weds			Thurs			Fri		
	am	noon	pm	am	noon	pm	am	noon	pm	am	noon	pm	am	noon	pm
4/14	31	65	51	49	52	32	22	85	44	39	53	48	53	67	62
7/14	27	35	15	1	25	18	1	51	35	38	40	31	41	43	33

30. Despite the survey being 18 months old, these figures are still relevant.
31. It is therefore suggested as an alternative to asking the health centre to provide dispensations for their medical staff on the Health Centre Car Park, that Pendle Council could offer a similar maximum of 20 dispensations for the Dockray Street Car Park.
32. At the meeting in January 2015 it was resolved:

“(2) That the Engineering and Special Projects Manager be asked to undertake a survey to establish the number of vehicles using the health centre car park as a rat run.”
33. Appendix 1 is a plan of the Colne Health Centre Car Park. There are Doctor bays now as shown on the plan as bays 30–36. These along with the bays surrounding them are regularly used and therefore decrease the access from Newtown through to St John Street. Therefore, there was insufficient evidence to show that the car park is now being used as a rat run.

CONCLUSIONS

34. Newtown Street and West Street are regularly busy during the working day. It is assumed that the majority of this parking is by long-stay workers from either the health centre or the police station. Parking increases at drop-off and pick-up times for the nearby Newtown Nursery.
35. Although the traffic survey confirmed that there is some non-residential vehicle parking on Bence Street, there is insufficient evidence that non-residential vehicles are causing a problem regularly for more than six hours per day.
36. Cross Skelton Street Car Park is being well used as a long-stay car park. There is scope to convert two disabled parking bays on the car park in order to increase the long-stay capacity.
37. Subject to the agreement of the health centre, Colne Health Centre Car Park has sufficient capacity to be able to offer some dispensations to staff who, as part of their working pattern, have to come and go from the health centre and who have heavy or medical equipment to carry.

38. Alternatively, provision can be made for dispensations for medical personnel for Dockray Street Car Park.
39. Any dispensations issued should be managed by the health centre with assistance from Pendle Council's Transport and Coordination Manager and should be used ONLY by staff that are in and out of the office habitually. They should not be used by staff who are office based.
40. If agreed, the issuing of the dispensations should initially be for a trial period of six months. A further report reviewing the parking and use of the dispensations should be brought back to Colne and District Committee in six months.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from this report.

Financial: None arising directly from this report.

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from this report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability: None arising directly from this report.

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Plan of Newtown Street, Bence Street and West Street and Colne Health Centre Car Park.

Appendix 2: Plan of Cross Skelton Street Car Park.

Appendix 3: Plan showing distances from Colne Town Centre Car Parks to Colne Health Centre.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Notes of a Meeting Re Parking Problems in the Newtown Street Area of Colne on 8 January 2015.
Minutes of Traffic Liaison Meeting 14 January 2015.

CRADDOCK
ROAD

Appendix 1

NEWTOWN STREET

ST JOHN STREET

WEST STREET

BENCE STREET

01 02 03 04 05 06 07
08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29
DELIVERIES

DROP
OFF

30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38
39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79
80 81 82 83 84 85

106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124

104 105

101 102 103

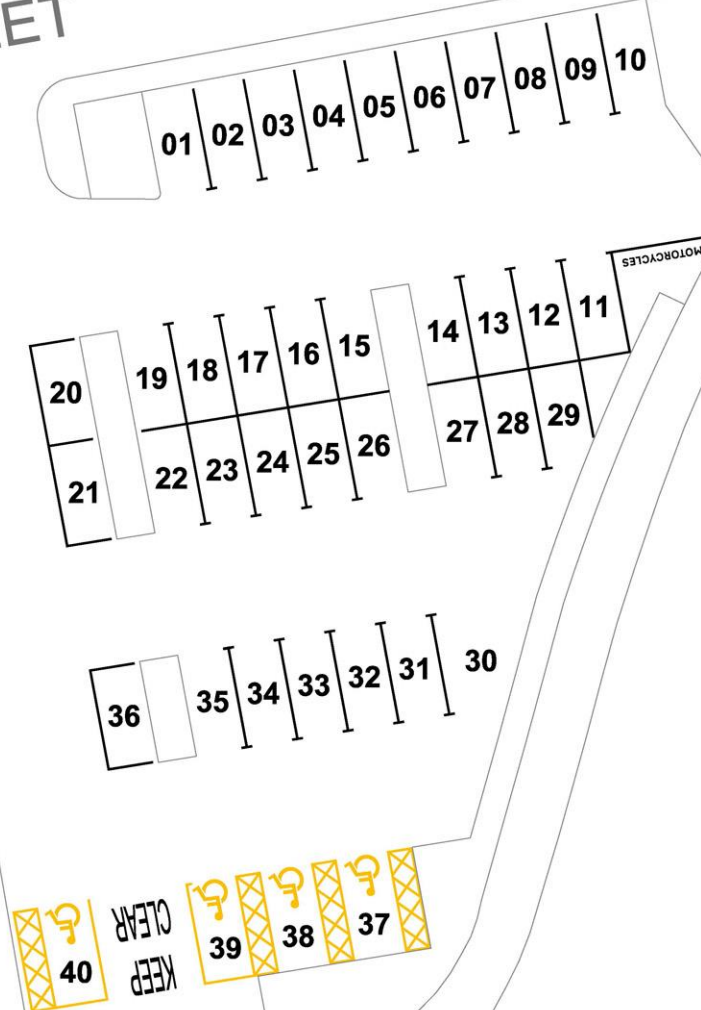
89 90

86 87 88



CROSS SKELTON STREET

SKIPTON ROAD

Union
Hotel
(PH)

Warehouse

Commercial
Hotel
(PH)

1



Distances from Colne Centre Carparks to Colne Health Centre