

Correspondence in relation to the objection

Mr and Mrs Alan and Jenny Collins  
57 Bassett Green Close  
Bassett  
Southampton  
SO16 3QR

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Mark R Heath  
Solicitor to the Council  
Southbrook Rise  
4-8 Millbrook Road East  
Southampton SO15 1YG

Copy to Graham Muir  
Highways and Parking Network management  
Southampton City Council

!4<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Dear Mr Heath,

We are writing with regard to the proposed parking restrictions plan advertised for Bassett Green Close, Southampton and wish to lodge our objections.

We have corresponded with Mr Muir earlier this year in connection with the proposals made at that time and we placed our concerns then.

We appreciate that the parking caused by the students living in the neighbouring student hostel in Bassett Green Road has always caused inconvenience on this stretch of the Close. This occurs during term time, so for four months of the year it no longer causes a problem.

Our main objection centres round the fact that the residents of this road should not be subjected to serious parking restrictions because of non-residents who park without due care on the bends in the road. Because of that we suggested in January that yellow lines would be useful just on the corners of Bassett Green Road and the main bend as you enter the close.

The latest parking restrictions plan will leave us with no parking at all outside our house or our neighbours for guests. We feel this is unacceptable and unfair to us as substantial ratepayers.

The parking that occurs from residents' guests, students and from visitors to the crematorium is, as we have said, inconvenient, rather than dangerous, and surely in any residential area in Southampton is to be expected.

With the present parking restrictions proposal, the students, who leave their cars permanently or for long periods, will only discover alternative parking further into the Close and probably at the side of our property, which will hinder us from using our side driveway. We had this driveway created shortly after we moved in about eight years ago at great expense in order to relieve the parking situation.

Having contributed to the convenience of our neighbours we feel we should have free access to this driveway as we have three vehicles, which we keep off the road.

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The resident in number 40 has shown the same concern with regard to possible student parking in this stretch of the road and our neighbours in number 55 will also have a problem with access and off road parking. The residents of number 55 are away at present and have no knowledge of the proposals yet and we are sure will have concerns.

There is ample parking for the students at their accommodation in Bassett Green Road and we wonder why students are not using this. Perhaps some communication with the University may shed some light on this. We have tried not to be anti student and appreciate their situation but they have been parking without any thought for the residents in this Close.

However, visitors to the Crematorium should have the right to park nearby if they need to. This never causes a problem, as it is only short stay.

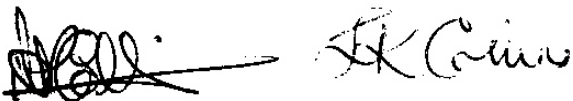
In addition, for the last few years when we have had severe weather with snow and ice, all of the local residents here have parked in this area of the road, highlighted by the parking restrictions proposals, because the close is a steep hill and is not gritted and access to their properties was not possible.

Drivers entering the estate generally drive too fast around the bend and our worry is that if there are yellow lines installed then the speed of drivers will become even more of an issue. Living where we are we are very aware of the speed of drivers entering the close and have to be careful. Earlier in the year we suggested a white line in the centre of the road to remind drivers to take care to stay on the correct side and not to cut the corner.

We hope that our objections will be taken into account. We have already tried to relieve parking by building a wider driveway at the side and cannot expand this further because of a lamppost. We are nearing retirement and don't feel compelled to finance any further work anyway. We have enclosed a plan of the proposal, sent to us in January, and wonder if a variation of this with some 'No Waiting' time restrictions would be more acceptable generally. Can you please ensure that we will be notified of any further proposals before anything is approved, thank you?

Finally, would a concave mirror, situated at the start of the bend help the situation?

Yours sincerely

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is more stylized and appears to be 'Alan Collins'. The signature on the right is more legible and appears to be 'Jenny Collins'.

Alan and Jenny Collins

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**Highways and Parking  
Network Management**  
Southampton City Council  
45 Castle Way  
Southampton SO14 2PD

Direct Dial: (023) 8083 2337  
Email: [graham.muir@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:graham.muir@southampton.gov.uk)  
Please ask for Graham Muir

Fax: 023 8083 3981  
Our Ref: HP/NM/GM/CC18

Mr and Mrs Alan and Jenny Collins  
57 Bassett Green Close  
Bassett  
Southampton  
SO16 3QR

1<sup>st</sup> July 2011

Dear Mr and Mrs Alan and Jenny Collins,

**Proposed Parking Restrictions in Bassett Green Close**

Thank you for your letter of 14<sup>th</sup> June objecting to the proposed parking restrictions in Bassett Green Close.

I am aware from previous correspondence with residents in this vicinity that whilst there is support for parking restrictions in Bassett Green Close, there were different views over the extent and type of restrictions that should be introduced. On this basis we put our initial proposals on hold and advised residents accordingly on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

However we received in April a letter from a resident of Bassett Green Close requesting No Waiting at Any Time restrictions on Bassett Green Close supported by a petition with 41 signatures. Given this level of support we decided to advertise the restrictions as requested on a map associated with the petition and allow the issue to progress through formal public consultation.

In terms of the points you have raised, although we have no record of injury accidents in this vicinity, we are being guided by residents' views that vehicle parking in this vicinity is causing hazards for road users and difficulties accessing driveways. It is understandable that a number of residents would wish to have use of on-street parking for visitors, though in these circumstances it is difficult to assess what might be generally acceptable to the community given the concerns over the hazards caused by parked vehicles in this vicinity.

As this is public highway and there are no restrictions on parking, any member of public is entitled to park their vehicle on the highway, providing it is not causing an obstruction (which would be a matter for the Police). In this respect we are unable to argue that a non-resident vehicle presents any more or less of a hazard, though I appreciate that if vehicles are parked for long durations this can extend the period over which any problems are likely to occur. Whilst we have previously met with the Transport Manager from the University to discuss on-street parking, any charges and management of their parking space is at their discretion.

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In wintery conditions where road markings are covered by snow the restrictions would not be enforceable. Generally in these circumstances it is better to keep roads clear of vehicles to avoid collisions from skidding vehicles.

Parking can reduce vehicle speeds but the residents requesting these proposals clearly view that more of a hazard is presented by vehicle parking in this section of Bassett Green Close.

Unfortunately the displacement of vehicle parking can be a consequence of introducing parking

restrictions, though the extent and potential area of displacement is not always possible to predict. It is our practice to seek address each area with parking problems in turn, particularly as it is difficult to get support for restrictions where parking issues are not being experienced.

Whilst I appreciate the investment you have made in your own off-road parking facilities, it is difficult to take this into account in matters related to regulation of the public highway.

Overall whilst I appreciate the points you have raised, given the support for the proposals from other residents and as this is the only objection we have received, I have concluded that reasons for proposing these restrictions are still valid and I regret that I am unable to uphold your objection.

**I hope that you will find this decision acceptable, but if, for any reason you do not, and you still wish to make an objection, you have right to do so. Your objection would then be placed before the Council's Cabinet for consideration and a decision (unless the proposal is withdrawn). Should you wish to make sustain your objection in this way, please write to me stating your reasons for doing so and making sure your letter reaches me no later than 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010.**

Please note that in the event you wish to sustain an objection and request that it be considered by the Council's Cabinet body, any correspondence may be included within a Cabinet report accessible by the public or be subject to disclosure under Freedom of Information legislation.

If you require any further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Muir

Graham Muir,  
Traffic Engineer, Traffic Management.

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Mr Graham Muir  
Highways and Parking  
Network Management  
Southampton City Council  
45 Castle Way  
Southampton SO14 2PD

57 Bassett Green Close  
Bassett  
Southampton  
SO16 3QR

Ref HP/NM/GM/CC18,  
26<sup>th</sup> July 2010

RECEIVED

29 JUL 2010

Dear Mr Muir,

Thank you for your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> July. With regard to your explanations concerning the proposed parking restrictions in Bassett Green Close, we wish to state that we do not find the decision acceptable and wish to lodge our continued objections to the proposals.

We suggested that yellow lines be installed just on the corners of Bassett Green Road/Bassett Green Close and then on the bend on the right as you enter the Close. This would enable a safe approach as you enter the Close and drive around the bend without it being hazardous. One or two cars parked between these lines would, in fact, provide a natural restriction to motorists' speed. We feel that the proposals are much too extreme and unnecessary and will lead to greater speed of traffic coming into the Close. We mentioned this in our last letter but this was not answered in your response.

We are surprised at the number of signatures requesting no waiting at any time. From our discussions with our immediate neighbours we are led to believe that they did not sign and in some cases were not even aware of a petition. They feel that some form of parking restriction is required but not to the extent proposed. This raises the question as to who signed the petition. The majority who signed must live much further into the Close. Their answer to the problem does not serve the needs of the people living in the proposed restricted area and are unnecessarily severe.

If you still feel that our suggestions are not valid then we must once again emphasise our concerns regarding the potential displacement of vehicles parked, should the restrictions be installed. This displacement will undoubtedly occur to the side of our property where we installed our safe driveway. On several occasions and most recently the 25<sup>th</sup> July on the day of a street party when the road was closed further down the close, about four residents' cars parked in the potential displacement area opposite our drive making it almost impossible to access in or out of our property. We had to shunt backwards and forwards to leave our property.

In your letter you stated that potential parking displacement areas would be addressed after the parking restrictions installed. In the meantime we ask how are we to access our property? Everyone else in the vicinity of the proposed yellow lines will have free access to their houses. However, we feel that we will be the only people really affected because we live on the corner and will have yellow lines on the front of our property and displacement parking to the side of our property.

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We would like to invite you to visit us and study the areas discussed for parking restrictions and the area of potential parking displacement. We would have been prepared to enlarge our drive to incorporate more parking for visitors. However, we cannot afford to do this if we still cannot access our drive. The only solution please, would be to continue the yellow lines to the side of our house, on both sides of the road, to ensure clear access to our property.

We would like to say that we have always tried to be cooperative in these concerns and tolerant of other people needing to park. We thought we lived in a community where everyone was tolerant and considerate of everyone's needs and we are disappointed that because we have not pressured others to support our views we are being disregarded. We hope to receive your acknowledgment of this letter. We are away until 9<sup>th</sup> August but can be contacted by mobile phone no. 07909678175.

We have consulted our neighbours who wish to support the provision of a number of safe residents' parking sites between the proposed yellow lines. These have been highlighted on the enclosed map. On the reverse of the map are details of their house numbers and their signatures. They are happy to support our request for residents' parking in these areas but for a number of reasons have not been able to write to you themselves. Also highlighted on the map is our personal request for the extension of the yellow lines to the side of our property to ensure our access onto our property.

Thanking you for your kind consideration.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Alan Collins and Mrs Jenny Collins

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The map overleaf highlights some suggested residents' parking which we feel would be located in safe areas and would be acceptable to us, rather than the proposed blanket yellow lines. We feel that the residents' parking is imperative for nurses, gardeners, tradesmen and family visitors and that the proposals take no account of the personal rights and needs of the residents involved.

Please give this your careful consideration.



28/7/0

150 Bassett Green Rd  
Southamp H<sup>o</sup>

SO16 5LW

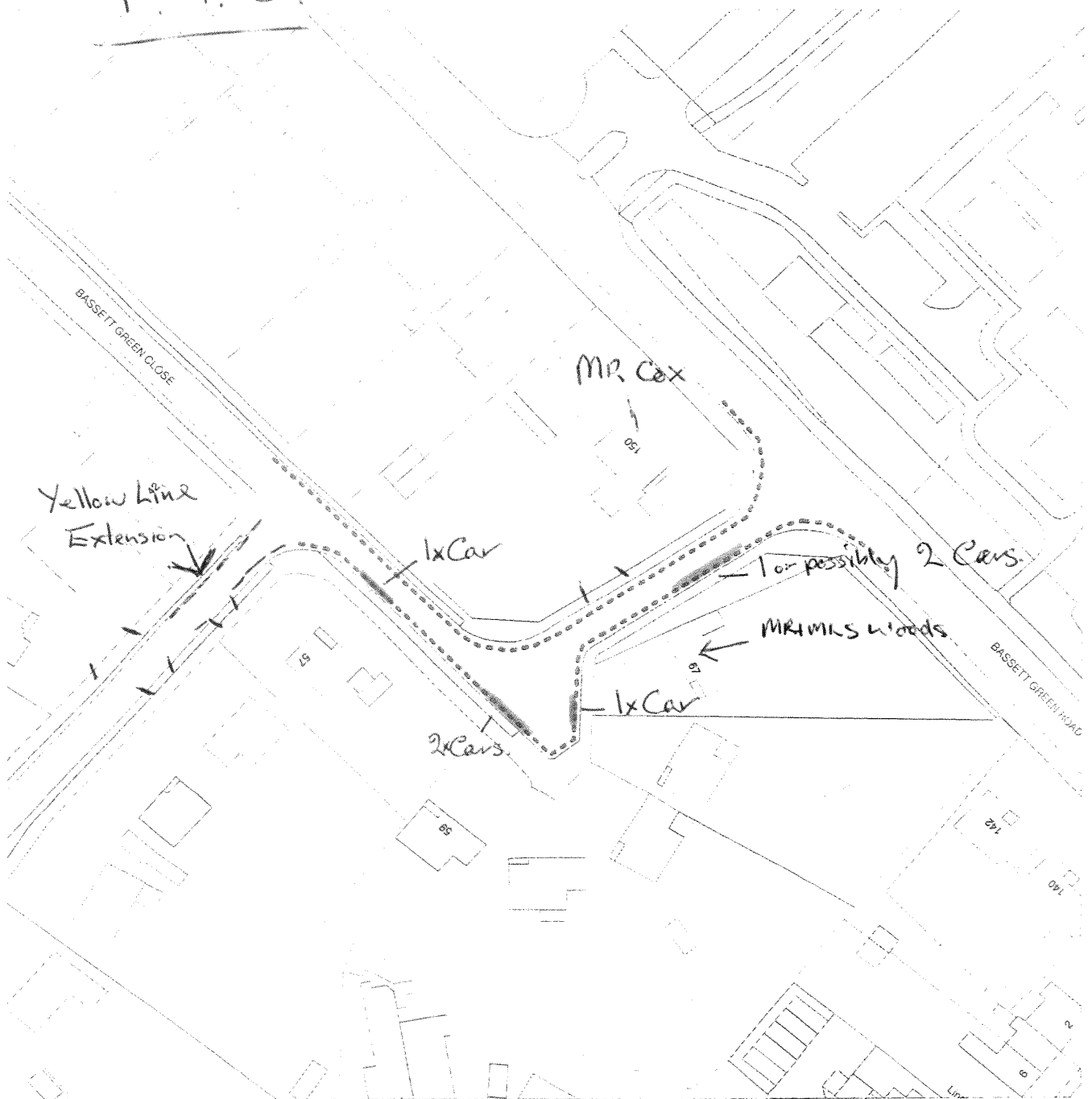
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Joan & Eric Wood

67, Bassett Green Close  
(resident for 35 years)

July 2010

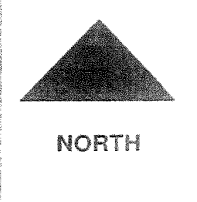
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Key

- ..... Safe parking area for Resident only parking.
- Requested extension of Yellow lines. (Request from No 57 only)



Mick Bishop  
 Head of Highways and Parking  
 45 Castle Way  
 Southampton  
 SO14 2PD

Drawn by: Graham Muir

Date: 4/5/2010

Drawing Title  
 Map showing proposed parking restrictions in the vicinity of the junction of Bassett Green Road and Bassett Green Close

Scale: 1:800

Plan No: GMBBGCV3