

Agenda items 13 & 14 Road Rep for Bingham Road west Re: parking and speeding in Bingham Road

There have been continuing discussions between ASPRA, councillors and council officers for several years.

- I called on local residents in Bingham Road, in the blocks between Fernhurst/Craven and Northampton/Colworth Roads, on the past two Saturdays (7 & 14.02.15).
- I asked informally whether they have concerns about speeding traffic and commuter parking in the road, and if so whether they thought that recommendations from the borough's Traffic Management Advisory Committee would reduce the problems.
- These recommendations are that the Controlled Parking Zone, at present in Colworth Road and from the Colworth Road junction west along Bingham Road adjacent to the tram lines, be extended along Bingham Road as far as Fernhurst Road and along all the roads leading to the Lower Addiscombe Road, from Ashling Road to Fernhurst Road.
- The suggestion of a CPZ was in response to residents' complaints to ASPRA & the local councillors that commuter parking makes it difficult for local residents who do not have off street parking to find parking spaces during the day. Residents with off street parking complain that commuters (or maybe local residents) make access difficult because cars are parked close to or even across lowered kerbs.
- The CPZ would operate Mon to Sat from 9 am to 5 pm with permit or 8 hour maximum stay Pay and Display bays. The Council proposes to carry out an informal consultation with residents of roads in the suggested CPZ in the 2015/16 financial year.
- In addition, the council is considering reducing the speed limit to 20 mph within some residential areas of Croydon - these speed limits already operate close to some schools in Croydon – and many of the roads in ASPRA could be subject to this speed restriction including Bingham Road, but not the main trunk roads.

- I spoke to 38 residents – not specially selected – they answered the door when I called and were prepared to discuss issues about the road.
- **Residents' views: CPZ - in favour – 7; against – 18; undecided – 13 (including those not bothered either way – often because they have off street parking).**
- The reasons some people were in favour of a CPZ: one resident mentioned that cars were left parked for a week or two outside his house and then were driven away after the occupants had loaded their luggage into them, possibly returning from holiday; the usual reason for favouring the CPZ was to reduce likelihood of cars parking across a lowered kerb; a resident who emailed his response said 'On balance, I am in agreement with a residents' parking scheme but would like to see the details i.e. visitor parking and prices etc. Sunday seems to be the most chaotic day for parking and I would like to see the restrictions 7 days a week'. (I will say more about this particular response shortly.)
- The majority were in favour of maintaining the status quo: comments included:
 - commuter parking is a small inconvenience/no problem – generally commuters are leaving/have left when residents return home
 - a CPZ would not even guarantee a parking place close to home
 - controlled parking hours would actually suit many commuters, especially if they park at 9 am
 - the CPZ would be more effective for local residents if parking was restricted to permit holders in the middle of the working day – e.g. 12noon - 2 pm
 - there is limited space for parking bays in some of these roads due to lowered kerbs – e.g. Fernhurst, Parkview and Baring Roads
 - why should I have to purchase a parking permit in order to park on the road outside my home?
 - parking for visitors and for people working on a residents' house could be a problem; skips need a licence if parked in a CPZ
 - several residents opposed the scheme as they felt the CPZ was intended to bring in revenue for the council and would not help local residents
 - one resident had lived in Grant Road when the CPZ was introduced there and said it provided no advantage whatsoever to local residents
 - a CPZ with its parking bay markings, ticket machines and parking information signs have a very negative impact on the streetscape – the roads would lose their current pleasant suburban appearance

- **Residents' views - a 20 mph speed limit in Bingham Road – overwhelmingly in favour 34; against 2; undecided 2.** Comments included:
 - measures to slow down traffic in the road are long overdue
 - several residents recounted details of accidents due to cars speeding in different sections of the road, but especially close to roads which join Bingham where visibility is obscured by parked cars and places where the road bends e.g. Parkview Road. Residents also have had their cars damaged by passing cars
 - one resident commented specifically on the need for traffic to slow down as it approached the tram stop from the east – the bend close to Northampton Road obscures the tram line and the warning sign is not obvious
 - parked cars do help to slow the traffic down, although does a short wait to let traffic pass from the opposite direction cause some drivers to speed up as time has been 'lost'? This may be the case when traffic is held up at the tram lines.
 - several residents questioned how a 20 mph speed limit would be enforced – speed cameras were suggested – could some dummy ones and some live ones be used?
 - some people did not want speed humps to be installed to slow traffic
 - concerns were expressed about the safety of pedestrians crossing the road, especially to the park, to St Mildred's Halls and to Mildred Court (Cllr Rendle mentions an informal crossing).

Returning to the resident who suggested the CPZ be in operation 7 days a week; he lives in close to the Parkview/Compton Roads junction and, like about six residents I spoke to who live in the terraced blocks on both sides of the junction, they are unhappy, even frustrated, about the irresponsible and even dangerous parking by members of the Christians in Action church at the corner of Parkview and Bingham Roads, particularly on Sunday afternoons (from early afternoon till about 6 pm). Cars are parked as close to the church as possible, including on the double yellow lines at the road junction and sometimes across residents' parking access. Some residents have felt intimidated by the users of the church when they have asked them to move their vehicles.

Would it be possible for the ASPRA committee to write to Christians in Action on behalf of the residents?