

3rd July 2019

Parking in The Street, Somerleyton

Dear Sue

This letter to you, the Parish Clerk, explains why I and other residents are raising concerns about the potential hazards of vehicles parking in The Street. There is too much here to discuss at this Thursday's meeting (July 4th) but perhaps it could be an agenda item for September.

It cannot have escaped anyone's notice that there are times when there are so many vehicles parked along the north side of The Street from the pond up to the junction with Station Road, that only one-way traffic is possible. This may be considered a mere inconvenience, but clearly there are hazards associated with it.

First is the potential hazard of a vehicle, (now regularly) parked outside Pond Cottage which obscures the view of any vehicle approaching The Street in an easterly direction. Most drivers approach this obscured view with caution but there are those who pay scant regard to it and proceed at speed.

Second, all vehicles, regardless of size and speed, are forced to the right hand side of The Street travelling east. Since there is no pavement on this side, drivers entering The Street from any of the dwellings on that side have to exercise extreme caution as near misses occur regularly.

Third, and linked to this, pedestrians, especially children, exiting these dwellings, also face this hazard. In fact, this issue was the subject of a petition presented to the Parish Council some years ago when a parishioner pressed for some kind of speed reduction.

Fourth, and more of an inconvenience than a hazard, is the issue of deliveries. This applies particularly to large vehicles delivering fuel for example, which temporarily block the road because of vehicles parked opposite.

Associated with the whole problem are the following:

1. The lack of off-street parking, especially for tenants of the Somerleyton Estate. It is a deliberate policy not to allow tenants garden space to do this. Widows' Cottages presents both a problem and a solution, since the front gardens would prove impossible, but there could be scope for some limited parking behind the cottages. Rosedene however could easily accommodate a parking space as requested by the

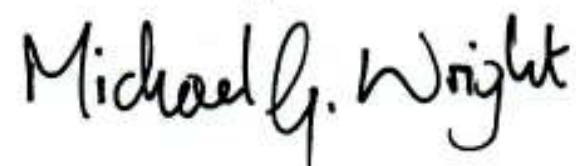
tenant in question. (Who, incidentally, owned three vehicles until recently, but still owns two, one of which is permanently parked in The Street.)

2. Following on from this there is the question of those residents using The Street as a car park. We appreciate that if a vehicle is road taxed, then it is perfectly legitimate to street-park it. However, when residents are multi-owners, this compounds the problem. In one obvious case, this includes a campervan which clearly goes nowhere most of the time. Again, legitimate, but hardly neighbourly.
3. Clearly, drive parking is the best solution and helps to reduce the problem. Perhaps this can be encouraged at all times.
4. Aside from the pinch-point issue at the pond end of The Street, there are times when this is exacerbated by time of day. Monday to Friday daytime sees parents dropping off and picking up their children for pre-school. Their need to park as close as possible to the Village Hall is unquestionable. Similarly, when events or regular meetings are held at the Village Hall, usually in the evenings, this temporarily adds to the problem. The Strummers' Tuesday events and the Bowls Club's meetings are two such cases. We have all seen times when the only space to give way in The Street from the pond to Station Road is outside the Village Hall. This can occur on any evening and at the weekends.

Finally, what can be offered as a solution? We doubt that most residents would opt for double yellow lines although this greatly eased the problem at the junction with the B1074 and might ease the pinch point for example.

Perhaps it's time to look again at a reduced speed limit to 20mph perhaps. This won't solve the parking problem but it should help to address the safety issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael G. Wright". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael G. Wright