



## Surrenden Area Parking Campaign

Working for better, fairer & safer parking  
in the Surrenden Area

1. Good afternoon Chair, Members of the Committee. I speak for the Surrenden Area Parking Campaign. Thank you for receiving our deputation.
2. I will identify our parking issues and a solution: **that the Surrenden Area should be consulted on a controlled parking zone, before the end of 2018.**
3. Our position is supported by evidence on our website: [surrendenareaparking.org](http://surrendenareaparking.org).
4. You've heard from residents in 'the Friars'. We support them and see benefits in a consultation which covers both areas.
5. Moving on, I will now summarise the **parking issues** faced by the Surrenden Area. These are:
  - Older houses have no off-street parking.
  - The on-street parking supply is finite.
  - Preston Park Station is close by. Commuters to London and Gatwick park in our streets.
  - There is a good bus service to the City Centre. People park to use it.
  - There are 6 schools and colleges with 7,000 students. Lots of drop-offs and pick-ups. Some 6<sup>th</sup> formers park for the day.
  - Commercial and recreational vehicles park because they can't get permits elsewhere. We asked our residents whether they own these vehicles. Ten owned a camper van and four owned a commercial vehicle – so the others are from elsewhere.
  - Enterprise car hire uses our streets as a depot for cars that it can't fit into its premises.

- ‘TripAdvisor’ tells Brighton visitors to avoid charges by parking free in our area.
  - Our area is being surrounded by other controlled parking zones: Q, J & G; A, E & K; F & F extension. Some zones can be walked across in 5 minutes, making charges easy to avoid, when a hundred yards away parking in our streets is still free.
6. These issues cause demand for parking in our streets to rise and exceed supply. 89% of our residents say parking has become more difficult since 2015 – causing ‘**parking chaos**’.
7. Residents are concerned about the effects of ‘**parking chaos**’ on road safety.
- 79% say that bad parking is a driving hazard.
  - 61% that the pedestrian environment is dangerous for the elderly.
  - 64% that is dangerous for school students.
  - 79% say high-sided vehicles are a particular hazard.
  - Parking congestion causes bad behaviour. Double and triple parking. Obstructing entrances, drives and junctions. Blocking dropped curbs where prams and disabled people cross. Buses get stuck when turning.
  - A tragedy is only a matter of time: a child hit, a serious collision, an ambulance or fire engine delayed ...
  - We thank the Committee for the new double yellow lines installed on Surrenden Road itself which do make that road safer. However, they have removed parking spaces and driven demand into the side streets.

8. The parking situation in the Surrenden Area has changed materially for the worse since the 2015 consultation and this trend is continuing. **We can't wait until 2019 for a consultation and 2020 for implementation. Consult us this year.**
9. 79% of our survey respondents said that a controlled parking zone would improve the situation in their road. **55% of households in our 22 streets signed our petitions, calling for a controlled parking zone consultation in 2018.**
10. There may be concerns about resources and fairness if you agree to our request. But Brighton Council has the highest parking revenue income of any in England outside London. Our estimate of nearly £0.3m annual revenue from a new zone at Surrenden is significantly larger than your previous estimates. Our request need not affect your current parking programme, because the revenue forecast for the large scheme we support would mean that you could fund others and us too. Formal designation and capital expenditure on construction would be in the 2019-20 budget, giving you time to make new financial provision. No-one has to lose out.
11. Finally, we say you should accelerate consultation because your voters want it. On the doorsteps for this Campaign:
  - Labour voters spoke about parking chaos excluding the elderly, children and non car-owners from a hostile pedestrian environment, where carers for the sick and elderly struggle to park;
  - Green voters spoke about discouragement to cyclists and declining air quality due to traffic hunting for parking spaces; and
  - Conservative voters preferred not to increase tax or regulation, but agreed a controlled zone is the only fair way forward.

- We thank Withdean Ward Councillors for recognising this in their letter of support on your Agenda this afternoon (Item 62 iii (c)).
12. On BBC Radio Sussex Breakfast on 16 March, a 2018 consultation was described as a 'no brainer'. It would be a win-win in social, environmental and economic terms.
  13. **Parking in the Surrenden Area is chaotic and causing danger to road users. So we seek urgent public consultation on a controlled parking zone proposal before the end of 2018 and a report to June ETS including new financial estimates to enable this to happen.**
  14. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Rynd Smith  
For & on behalf of SAPC  
20 March 2018