



## **IVER HEATH PARKING SURVEY ANALYSIS and RECOMMENDATIONS June 2021**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In March 2021, the Ivers Parish Council carried out two surveys on proposed new parking schemes for Iver Village and for the area outside the Co-op in Thornbridge Road, Iver Heath. At the time of writing, plans of the proposals are still available on the IPC website under [Solving Our Parking Problems](#). The schemes were instigated by the new Buckinghamshire Council Wexham and Iver Community Board of which Iver Heath Residents' Association is a member.

We have prepared this analysis of the survey results for the Iver Heath proposal on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council Parking Department who designed the scheme, the Ivers Parish Council who conducted the survey and local residents. Suggested modifications and improvements, based on feedback from the survey are outlined below.

There were 63 responses to the survey. 50% fully supported the scheme; 41% gave it partial support and 9% were against the plan.

### **FINDINGS SUMMARY**

The overwhelming reason for support was that the current situation is dangerous. Two-way traffic outside the shops is often blocked causing a back-up onto the mini roundabout on Church Road and up Thornbridge Road. Vehicles will then drive through the parking area causing more disruption. Inconsiderate parking in Copse Wood also blocks residents coming in or out of their driveways.

### **RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SCHEME**

The following reservations about the scheme were most commonly given:

- Residents were concerned that there will not be enough parking places and cars will be forced to park further up Thornbridge and Ashford Roads.
- Waiting time limits are too long and one disabled bay is sufficient. Shop staff must park somewhere and consequently they are forced to use many of the available spaces.
- Most important of all was the question "How will the scheme be policed?" If this is not done effectively it will not work.
- There were many references to the volume of through traffic to and from Pinewood Studios. At peak times, studios traffic comes through the Pinewood Estate in large numbers causing congestion at the exit points. Our regular air quality monitoring also shows high levels of air pollution at junctions on Church Road at the Stag & Hounds and on Pinewood Road.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings, we recommend that the scheme be adjusted to include the following modifications. This should be treated as the first phase of a study to solve issues with through traffic, the width restriction and inappropriate parking for Pinewood and Black Park visitors at the top end of Pinewood Green.

- Management at the Stag and Hounds Public House have kindly agreed to issue a limited number of unofficial permits to allow shop staff to park in their car park. This will make more spaces available for shoppers.



- Hourglass ladies' hairdressers need longer waiting times for their customers than the Co-op and Jeeves Pharmacy. They have therefore agreed in principle to operate some form of ticket system that would allow parking in excess of one hour for customers in a limited time bay without incurring a penalty. This needs further investigation.
- Parking times to be limited to 30 minutes outside the shops and on the shop side of Thornbridge Road. All other places to have a limit of 1 hour including the two sides of the island. However, let the Hairdressers issue longer time 'one time use only' tickets to customers when they need it. These tickets would extend the one hour limit for their customers only but should be limited in number.
- Have just one disabled bay and site it at the end of the row of bays next to the access to the back of the shops. It will be empty most of the time so will improve sight-lines for delivery lorries.
- Keep the two-wheel pavement parking on two sides of the island only, with hard standing and bollards or a barrier to prevent damage to the adjacent ground. This island is, unfortunately, used as a public toilet and dumping ground for rubbish so vehicles should not be encouraged to stay there for long periods.
- Keep the raised kerb island to separate the parking area from the road and use it for planting to improve the look of the area.

There are also some minor points involving individual properties which we will be happy to discuss with the planners.

#### **INFORMAL PARKING NUMBERS SURVEY**

As far as we are aware, no formal assessment of the parking requirements was carried out before the survey. However, some of our members who live locally did count the number of parked cars twice a day over a two-week period at the end of last year. Their results were as follows:

- The mean average number of vehicles parked on a weekday was 32.
- On Saturday it was 23 and 19 on Sunday.
- The maximum recorded was 40 on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The proposed new scheme, with just one disabled bay, will provide 27 parking places.

There are currently no time restrictions at all so allowing for a maximum of one hour parking time and moving say 10 cars to the Stag and Hounds car park should give us enough parking places most of the time. If not, increasing the length of the layby next to the post box in Thornbridge Road or using a small section of Heatherden Green could be considered.

#### **PROPOSED NEXT STEPS**

The next stage is to take these recommendations back to Bucks Parking Planners. Another survey, with the revised scheme, will then be necessary and it is hoped, for the reasons given here, that it will receive more support allowing it to go ahead. To satisfy more residents it is important that, this time, the survey includes information about how the scheme will be policed and what the penalties would be for non-compliance.

With thanks to all who took part in the survey.

*Alan Wilson*

Chair, Iver Heath Residents' Association