

The No Win Situation – Parking – Parking – Parking

This week, like most weeks, I and other Councillors are contacted by residents in respect of 'Parking Issues/Concerns' – I have covered this subject on many occasions, and 'we' Councillors take the brunt of the blame for not being able to wave a magic wand and make the problem disappear.

Today issues/concern in a residential area close to the Town Centre, where one resident is having problems of vehicles blocking their driveway and leaving late at night/morning causing noise.

There have been other occasions of parking/delivery 'wars' on this small estate.

So – resident enquiry of 'yellow lines'/stop inconsiderate parking. I use the word 'emotive' as in every case – for those who want yellow lines, there are those who do not wish for them. If the road has no markings, there is nothing that 'we' Councillors/Council or the Police can do about who parks where, as long as it does not cause a hazard. On one occasion an ambulance could not access the area, phone calls to the Police did very little as they had no asset in the area. The resident on this occasion missed their appointment – because of inconsiderate parking. The vehicle causing the issue was not 'taxed/mot'd' – the Police did not follow up.

When I tried to explain to resident on how 'we' as a Council apply for 'Yellow Linage' they were not interested in listening and became very excited.

The system we are allowed is to have LHI (local highways improvements) applied for, each Council is allowed 3 applications per financial year, up to a maximum amount of £15,000 each and Whittlesey Town Council has to put up 10% of the cost.

This year's allocations have been approved and the 3 for next year have been selected. When resident heard this, they were again not happy and thinks their issue is more important and the other residents who have waited their turn.

As an 'unpaid' volunteer/Councillor I take quite a few knocks and rants, however I do not give or expect to take any form of abuse, I consider my work in supporting and helping any resident whether they are in St Mary's Ward South or elsewhere paramount and put in vast amount of time/hours supporting many residents through the many community groups I belong to.

Parking concerns and issues will never go away, 'we' can only do our best, but if residents are not prepared listen to how we may address the issue – sorry in this instance I cannot help. If the resident wishes to make contact with me again, I am more than happy to engage.

Finally on the 'Yellow Lines' – we have plenty in/around our town, who 'Polices' the Yellow Lines is another contentious issue. Until Parking becomes de-criminalised (still some way off) we rely on our stretched resourced Police Force.

We are living under the COVID threat 24/7 and at this moment my priorities are supporting our community as best as we can.