

YELLOW LINES ON THE CHASE
Parishioners replies to Stanton Parish Council Public Consultation

CAN YOU PARK OVER A DROPPED KERB?

The Highway Code's Rule 243 states that you should '*not stop or park where the kerb has been lowered to help wheelchair users and powered mobility vehicles, or where it would obstruct cyclists except when forced to do so by stationary traffic.*'

Parking a vehicle fully or partially across a dropped kerb is classed as an obstruction and either the police or the local council can enforce the obstruction.

If the problem persists, the council can mark a white line below the dropped kerb but they are not enforceable by police or councils – they are only an advisory area as where not to park.

However, it's more than a moral issue. Parking on a dropped or even parking on a kerb, you run the risk of getting a PCN.

PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

Please do not waste money pursuing this, all it will do is exacerbate the problem in all areas off the Chase, parking is problematic at certain times of day Michaelhouse Way is like driving through a slalom. It is a very difficult problem as the surgery has a massive catchment area in which a considerable number of patients are disabled and can't be expected to walk or indeed in some cases use wheelchairs, blue badge holders are permitted to park on the yellow lines so in my opinion the problem remains in situ. Can the village hall car park not be utilised during the day?

In theory a good idea but think we should save the money, all that will happen is blue badge holders will park on them, as will others, we would have to pay someone to police it, it is very difficult I reside in Michaelhouse Way and yes we also are experiencing cars parking that are utilising the surgery, making life difficult for residents and impossible for tradesmen to park. Why can't the surgery be moved to Shepherds Grove area? Or even perhaps into one of the yet to be built industrial units, ample parking easy access. As it stands at certain times of day God help any one who is waiting for an emergency service vehicle especially fire! They would not get through.

The proposal of double yellow lines seems ridiculous as there will be nobody to police it. If people are prepared to park over the end of someone's driveway, yellow lines will not stop them. Perhaps stop building more houses in Stanton and consider moving the surgery. When the surgery carried out recent expansion, were no consultations held then regarding increased traffic. If the Bloor Homes development goes ahead the situation will become even worse.

We live at Shepherds Grove Park so visiting the surgery has to be by car. Now the health service has claimed the car park opposite for themselves, parking is a nightmare for the locals, double yellow lines is a no-no as it does not solve the problem. The only answer is a car park at the back of the surgery and houses on the green space which joins the surgery car park. Will be money well spent as the situation will only get worse when all the new houses get built opposite garage A143.

I am very disappointed to read in August Stanton Steamer about the Parking on the Chase. I have lived in Stanton for the past 19 years and cannot understand the parking I HAVE witnessed and the accident in the last couple of weeks since you gave planning permission for the Doctors to extend.

Firstly WHY did you give planning permission if you had not considered the amount of extra parking required? Why do the doctors have to use the few parking places available and WHY are all the staff and doctors not walking from the village hall as we have been lead to believe?

I am very unhappy about your idea of double yellow lines on both sides of The Chase. How did you come to this decision? WHY am I expected to lose money on the value of my property as double yellow lines will affect this? GET THE DOCTORS TO MOVE. The old school would have been a much better idea and it has parking,

the other idea I have is for the car park across the main road in the bottom of the field it's very wet and does not grow much of a crop. Maybe you should approach the land owner to see if he would consider selling a small amount of land at the bottom, then have a proper crossing with lights and just have disability parking at the surgery.

Very, very disappointed resident of The Chase.

Stanton is a traffic nightmare in several places but the parish council has not seen fit to intervene to address the matter in those areas. Equally village development has been rejected on the basis of limited infrastructure to support additional houses. This village was never designed to accommodate this much traffic at all and the only answer is development. The only thing here that has really changed is that the GP surgery has effectively doubled in patient numbers and didn't need to consider the wider impact. So you ended up with development you didn't want. We need a car park, and I would suggest the grassed areas at the end of the chase adjacent to the main road with a footpath to surgery would encourage its use.

Yes, Parking in the chase is a problem and it's certainly not created by the residents. But equally I can't see any reason for those residents to receive special treatment to deal with the issue. The doctor's surgery has transferred the Hopton patients to their practice without any consideration for the infra-structure. The road outside the school is impassable several times a day with people parked all over the place, obstructing buses, and lorries getting to and from the industrial estate. The area around the shop is impassable when the industrial estate traffic descends at the beginning and end of the day. Equally safety arguments don't stand up as elderly and blind residents at Shepherds Grove Park are expected to dodge traffic going 60mph to get to the bus stop opposite. And the last component of the congestion problem is the obstruction of all development by the parish council because the infrastructure won't support it. We need to address the infrastructure limitations not run from the problem or use them as an excuse to prevent change.

I've spent a lot of time contemplating this issue and this is the conclusion I've come to. No to yellow lines down the chase Yellow lines might shift the problem but it certainly does not solve it. People need to get to the doctors and there is insufficient parking provision. There is only one real answer and that is some sort of development somewhere.

In reply to the request in the Stanton Steamer for comments concerning the subject heading I would like to offer some observations and give you some idea of my personal impact and those generally observed by me.

I served in the Royal Air Force, for 31 years in fact and was a Warrant Officer Policeman finishing my time at Honington in 2000. Whilst this has little bearing on the subject matter, I did some "other stuff" generally, I thought you might like to know that I speak through some knowledge of problems like this but from a more disciplined perspective which can't necessarily be applied here. I have a great deal of sympathy with the current situation and have no axe to grind with the surgery. I have benefited from their expertise in the past owing a great debt of gratitude to them for their professional support.

1. There has either been a severe failure in parking planning following the combination of the Hopton Surgery and the Chase or it was accepted that this would cause a considerable and intolerable imposition on local residents, with a take it or leave it attitude.
2. The prediction mentioned that a collision would occur has in fact recently happened and two vehicles recently were badly damaged. The whole area has now become an accident waiting to happen with vehicles manoeuvring from Parkside being blinded on exit from both directions and vehicles parking around the bend towards the A143 cause a visual hazard to traffic.
3. I seem to remember an agreement that visitors to the Surgery could park in the adjacent Health Centre at No 12 but this has since been rescinded due to other practices gearing up there and excluding other visitors to No10. I note staff still regularly park outside my house for the day and do so along the Chase which exacerbates congestion.
4. The question here is primarily the safety of residents exiting from their driveways, the safety of visitors to both Health Centres and pedestrians crossing the road which is presently 30mph.
5. Double yellow lines are only as good as the way they are policed and if visitors know, as they will," I'm here for just a couple of minutes "will become normal practice and they will be generally ignored. Disabled people with legal blue badges quite rightly have double yellow exemptions and frankly I think there will be plenty of them due to the regular necessary visits.
6. Retrospective measures following what I see as a planning error are difficult to solve however, there are some solutions you may wish to consider which may alleviate some of the issues but will not solve all of them, this is particularly urgent as the nearing expansion of the village is imminent:-
 - a. The land at the rear of the Surgery is acquired for car parking.
 - b. A 20mph speed limit is imposed along the Chase.
 - c. A one way system is established for the Chase
 - d. Some double-yellow lines are considered for safety although they will not deter the determined and disabled, people will still park on them.
6. Residents including myself will not benefit from double yellow lines much as they will push visitors to park further away, still outside our houses, blocking our drives and obscuring the view.

I've lived here for 29 years and remember if a bus had the temerity to drive past it would cause some concern and 5 or 6 cars an hour was busy!

I hope you consider these suggestions done on "the back of a fag packet" and that you get some other reasonable ones which may help us all in the long run.

Unfortunately your email address in the Steamer has a 'stet' so you may not get many replies.

Having just read the article concerning parking at Stanton Surgery, we felt we had to comment. The proposal of double yellow lines seems ridiculous as there will be nobody to police it. If people are prepared to park over the end of someone's driveway, yellow lines will not stop them. Perhaps stop building more houses in Stanton and consider moving the surgery. When the surgery carried out recent expansion, were no consultations held then regarding increased traffic. If the Bloor Homes development goes ahead the situation will become even worse.



Cars parked all the way from the doctors to the Michaelhouse Way junction with the Chase. Taken at 9.10 am today 1st August 2023. Nearest parked car is making access difficult for the driveway opposite and is parked right on the junction. Buses and Lorries would block the road as they try to pass. If they can pass.

Personally, I can see the issue but I wonder if it is wise to spend a lot of money on this project in the current economic climate. I work for a London council and we are really pulling in our spending and every department is being asked to make savings as we see some Councils get into financial problems.

I think I would be inclined to wait until we have a more economic stable climate unless the funding is coming from elsewhere.

Obviously the decision will rest with the Councillors and I am sure the Clerk can advise on finances and budget. As a resident it is not a priority. I would like to pay more in my Council Tax for in a time when all costs are rising at the moment. I am not opposed to the idea in principle though.

Parking on The Chase has become a nightmare. The blame must lie directly with the NHS who built the extension to the building drastically reducing the parking. Also Ixworth Surgery who are no longer permitting the use of their car park.

It is a very difficult situation and must be very annoying to the residents in The Chase. Double yellow lines are perhaps only going to make matters worse and anyway who is going to enforce them, we rarely see Police in the Village. Many people who use the Surgery find it difficult to walk long distances, so parking further away will cause its own problems.

There is a plot behind the Surgery that is owned by either WSC or SCC and is maintained by them but it might be possible to negotiate the use of part of the land for parking.

Doctors and Nurses need parking spaces as they often have to go out on calls, however, the staff at the Surgery park without moving all day. In The Chase there are a number of properties with big drives, could they be persuaded to allow parking of staff cars during working hours? Another idea is to build a network of volunteer car owners to take patients there and pick them up when ready they could park somewhere else or maybe the Village Hall.

There is no easy answer which need not have happened if the NHS had built, as planned, the new Surgery on the land next to the school which raises another issue instead of making the road almost impossible to use twice a day by cars parked why can't the school use the field for parking? Being realistic the Surgery will never be built there.

Just as a matter of interest Monday morning I stopped at the Chase letter box, a car pulled up behind mine and it was a member of staff despite there being ample parking available in the so called "staff car park " why can't the staff who are relatively "fit" utilise the village hall parking facility leaving the public often disabled and obviously not well to use on site parking.

We are writing in response to your item in the August Stanton Steamer.

We agree with your suggestion to put double yellow lines in the section from the Parkside junction down to Duke Street as that part of the road has become very dangerous due to the bend in the road obscuring the visibility of the drivers going towards the A143 when cars are parked there. Obviously another consideration is that drivers will park further along The Chase causing even more problems.

The obvious answer is for people who work at the surgery and the Health Centre, many of whom now park all day in the road, to use the village hall car park or the church car park. These are both nearby and from the village hall there is a short cut through Shetlands to make the walk even shorter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

I have lived on the chase near the Dr's Surgery for about 13 years now.

Cars have always parked on the chase for the surgery or visiting a house (which was not a problem), but recently I have counted up to a dozen at any one time. Some of the cars are parked there permanently all day, opposite drives and junctions.

I have witnessed an accident because of this parking and pets being hit because of this.

The amount of traffic coming down The Chase has also increased considerably, (I counted about 140 one day between 9 to 12 during a week day) including large lorries and busses, that really shouldn't be using this route, speed is also an issue.

Putting yellow lines on The Chase will only push the cars to park in the roads off The Chase, just forcing the problem to different areas.

My first suggestion would be that the people who work at the surgery park at the recreation ground car park which always has spare parking and make the short walk to the surgery. I believe this would have a considerable impact on its own.

My second suggestion would be the creation of a car park. There is land at the end of The Chase/Duke Street that could be used for parking with a little work without imposing on any of the residents too much.

It would be a total and utter waste of public money, it would only exacerbate the situation to another area, and this whole process would happen again, using the public's hard earned money, as I have said before blue badge holders are permitted to park on yellow lines, or are the elderly, or disabled supposed to get to and from the village hall parking? In all weathers? Regarding the van did anyone check to see if it belonged to a workman being employed by a resident? I live in Michaelhouse Way and we too get surgery parking I have suggested before that the staff who one would consider to be of reasonable health use the village hall car park, and are just very careful when leaving as its ghastly getting out onto Bury Rd. If the yellow lines are installed who is going to pay for the policing them? Please bare in mind that drivers (even me) take advantage of the post box situated in the chase, yellow lines would make that box inaccessible unless you are a pedestrian. (Yes I can walk that far but I post items when on the way out).

Am just fed up with our hard earned money going to waste on projects that I see doomed to fail, or not followed through completely.

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Perhaps staff could park at the community centre/church room in Stanton and walk over to surgery. When I worked at SCC I had to pay to park and there was a short walk needed, so even though this may not be a popular proposition for staff this would free up spaces for patients

Marketing and promotion of home delivery service for prescriptions (so less people need to collect medicines at the surgery)

Perhaps the social prescribers could deliver appointments at a community venue instead of surgery?

Perhaps the community centre or church room?

Review of all services offered to see if community centre or church room could be used instead

A new surgery in the area to accommodate new patients in area

Move the dispensary to another location.

After reading and experiencing the problems with parking on the Chase, would it not be possible to either:

1) Get those responsible for the proposed Bloor Housing to agree to have a new health centre (with parking) built on the site?

2) Have a new pre-school built on the Bloor site (with drop off areas) and use the existing school plot for a health centre? There is already room on the present

Pre-school site for parking. Hopefully this might remove the problem we now have with people blocking the road when dropping their children off.

As a by the by: why isn't the area behind the fence at the existing school opened up at each end so parents can drive in, drop off their children more safely and then leave instead of parking in the road ?

3) Make the grass area at each side of The Chase (A143 end) into parking areas?

All expensive ideas you will say, but so is putting double yellow lines on the road which I would hazard a guess will be abused anyway judging by the Steamer articles.

Over the last few months visiting Stanton Surgery is made even more stressful by not being able to park so when I can I cycle. Quite a lot of the cars parked on the roads by the doctors are probably cars from patients/carers trying to get their prescriptions as since Covid the surgery prefers to speak to patients on the phone rather than have face to face appointments.

In order to collect repeat prescriptions from the dispensary 9 times out of 10 it takes several trips to collect items as there are usually problems with our orders. There are very long queues and even then, when you get to the desk you are asked to wait for 45 minutes while they get your order ready.

Also, can I ask why instead of the surgery being extended it wasn't moved up to the vacant land next to Stanton Primary School on Upthorpe Road which I believe is County Council owned? Surely, a purpose built surgery could have been built with adequate parking?

The Chase 6th Sept 2023

I'm a resident of Stanton and frequently use the chase. The cars parked for the surgery are indeed a nuisance. However double yellow lines will not solve the problem. Anyone who uses the surgery that has a blue badge will still be able to park there, as people with health permits. The surgery has outgrown its current location and needs a relocation with adequate parking.



No mention of the parking near the pub/post office the constant road blocking that happens there. It's been happening much longer and is a consistent safety issue.



will
and

Just thought I'd send these photos of someone in the red to be a minute outside my house 16 The Chase. I narrowly collision this morning whilst exiting my driveway which been mostly my fault admittedly but a car coming fast entered my field of vision late due to both ways vision obstructed by these vehicles. You do have to be extra due to excess speed of vehicles trying to fight both ways and a 20 mph limit would lessen the risk.



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Summary of opinions expressed by our Residents in response to Stanton Parish Council's request for a Public Consultation on the current parking situation on The Chase

Stanton Parish Council wishes to express its grateful thanks to our correspondents who provided us with excellent, frank, extremely forthright and helpful responses which are recorded anonymously and which, we are confident, reflect the groundswell of opinion within the Village as a whole.

Examination of the responses recorded above, can be consolidated into the following summary, but we recommend that a careful reading of the opinions sent in can be understood in the context in which they were expressed.

A thorough examination of the responses suggests the following:-

1. There is almost unanimous rejection of the suggestion to install double yellow lines anywhere on The Chase with a strong undercurrent of opposition to them being installed anywhere else in the Village. It was consistently pointed out that there is no way in which they could be enforced.
2. In the short term until a resolution of the situation can be found, almost unanimously, the opinion expressed is that Surgery Staff and Doctors should park their vehicles at either the Recreation Ground car park, or the Church Rooms car park and walk from either to the Surgery to begin their duties.
3. The grassland behind the Surgery should be purchased [currently, ownership of the land is unknown] and a suitably large car park be constructed there with enough capacity to cope with any increase in Village population due any future housing development. It was also noted that a percentage of patients come from Hopton and vehicular use to attend the Surgery is a given.
4. There is an extremely strong feeling that there should be an investigation into the possibility of relocating the Surgery root and branch to the land on Upthorpe Road adjacent to the Primary School which Villagers believe would have been a much better option than the extension to the Surgery recently completed. It seems to be widely accepted by the Residents that larger buildings with better infrastructure and capabilities along with acceptable parking would keep pace with the possibility of any future housing development within the Village boundaries.

Editorial Note:

The views expressed in this document are purely those of our correspondents and there has been no solicitation or influence exerted on any of our correspondents.

John Frizzell Parish Councillor.