



## **st oswald's church**

*Main Street, Fulford, York YO10 4HJ*

### **Request for a Residents' Priority Parking Scheme (Respark)**

Thank you for your letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021, and recent email, providing the opportunity to comment on the request for Residents' Priority Parking outside properties 5 to 11 Main Street. Whilst I appreciate our neighbours' needs and have some sympathy for their request – personally having no objection in principle to some form of residents 'priority' parking – much would depend on the extent of restrictions likely to be placed on non-resident parking. I am assuming that your use of the term 'priority' merely implies preferential conditions for residents, either generally or at certain times of day, rather than a blanket 'residents only' parking scheme.

Whilst your plan suggests only a limited number of vehicle spaces (8 or 9) being available on the carriageway outside the four properties in question (Nos. 5, 7, 9 and 11 Main Street) my experience is that – most of the time – the spaces outside 5, 7 and 9 are usually occupied and we are most grateful to our neighbours at No 11 who habitually park their vehicles off road, on the grass verge, allowing drivers a less restricted view of the approaching southbound traffic on emerging from our Church car park than they would have should the vehicles be parked on the carriageway itself.

Consequently, although I don't think that visitors to our Church events benefit greatly from the use of parking facilities outside these properties, it would be beneficial for our users to be able to continue to park there for limited periods at certain times should spaces be available.

My greater concern is that of health and safety should the residents of No 11 be required to park on the carriageway; the confluence of the shared pavement/cycle lane and bus stop/clearway along the dropped kerb driveway (incidentally, not shown on your plan) provide sufficient hazard for users of our car park without additional vehicles on the carriageway abutting our exit and obscuring vital sight lines.

Our own car park facilities remain largely unchanged since my letter of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (spaces for 9 vehicles and one disabled access spot) which are generally sufficient for our *regular*, daytime, weekday activities but not for weekends or week day evenings when events necessitate the use of overspill or on street parking.

Thankfully the current conditions on the parking bay opposite Church, outside Connaught Court, are helpful here and we also have an informal understanding with Townends (the Accountants at No 1) Heslington Lane who - with prior consent - graciously allow us use of their car park, outside office hours, on weekday evenings and at weekends.

The real pinch point occurs when we have major weekday events in daylight hours (Monday to Friday, between 9am and 6pm) when a Traveller or other large funeral, Civic event, Blood donor session or conference held by hirers of our hall cannot be accommodated within our environs and forces vehicles back onto Main Street, Fulford Road or some of the side streets in the vicinity.

Taking these points into consideration, I wonder if a scheme similar to that in operation around the Bootham area of York might be beneficial for all concerned where; **Parking** is permitted for **Permit holders** (Residents?) at all times or **90 minutes** for others with **no return within one hour**. Such flexibility might allow a handful of our visitors to use any spaces that may be available - on arrival during daylight hours on weekdays – without occupying the places for excessive lengths of time or unduly denying residents access.

These, however, are just *my* initial thoughts and observations; our Parochial Church Council (PCC) would welcome the opportunity to consider and comment further once you have formulated more specific proposals and we look forward to receiving further details in due course.

Many thanks for allowing me to offer these brief comments and apologies for the delay in my response.

I hope that you will be able to address and accommodate these points in your deliberations.

Yours faithfully,

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Churchwarden  
Fulford Parochial Church Council (St. Oswald) York.