

7. MERIVALE LANE - MANAGEMENT OF ON-STREET CAR PARKING

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Environment
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to both inform the Board of the outcome of the consultation process regarding the management of on-street car parking in Merivale Lane between Winchester Street and Papanui Road and seek approval for the installation of parking restrictions (refer attachment).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Council has received numerous complaints from local residents regarding the levels of traffic congestion and on-street parking in Merivale Lane between Winchester Street and Papanui Road. The congestion is predominantly attributed to the presence of the Selwyn House School and Pre-School and the Ferndale School and Resource Centre on the south side of the Lane all of which are high traffic generating activities particularly at peak "drop-off" and "pick-up" times namely 8am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4pm. The Lane is also experiencing a large amount of all day (on-street) parking which is predominantly attributed to staff from these schools. The high levels of on-street parking contributes to the congestion and raises safety and visibility issues for both residents and road users of the Lane.
3. Merivale Lane between Winchester Street and Papanui Road has a carriageway width of 7.4m which widens to 11.5m for a distance of 60m between numbers 87 and 75 Merivale Lane at the western end of the Lane. Currently there is a "no stopping" restriction on the north side of the Lane which applies between the hours of 7am to 9am and 3pm to 4.30pm. There is no footpath on the north side of the Lane.
4. Two rounds of consultation have been carried out involving all affected stakeholders. The first sought to identify the issues and problems currently being experienced in the Lane. A total of 49 consultation documents were delivered and 28 were returned. The consultation documents suggested the problems currently being experienced could be alleviated with the installation of a parking restriction on the south side and a broken yellow "no stopping" line on the north side of the Lane.
5. The majority of submissions received expressed dissatisfaction with the current situation. The main concerns that emerged from the consultation process were:
 - (a) Traffic congestion in the Lane at peak school times;
 - (b) The narrowness of the carriageway;
 - (c) Lack of enforcement of the current "no stopping" restriction;
 - (d) Concerns over whether or not emergency vehicles would be able to travel down the Lane during peak times;
 - (e) The large amount of all-day (on-street) parking on the south side of the Lane;
 - (f) The lack of available on-street parking for residents and their visitors;
 - (g) Frustration with the schools for not providing adequate off-street parking for staff and parents;
 - (h) Inconsiderate parking on both sides of the Lane (encroaching over driveways);
 - (i) Poor visibility when exiting driveways due parked vehicles, especially on the north side;
 - (j) Excessive speed;
 - (k) Concerns for the safety of the school children especially when they are dashing across the road to parked vehicles on the north side;
 - (l) The lack of a footpath on the north side of the Lane;
6. The feedback from the first round of consultation showed that:
 - (a) 14 were in favour of the installation of a parking restriction on the south side of the Lane and 11 were opposed;
 - (b) 18 were in favour of the installation of a broken yellow "no stopping" line on the north side of the Lane and 7 were opposed;
 - (c) 4 suggested extending the hours of the current "no stopping" restrictions on the north side;

- (d) 2 suggested installing P120 parking restrictions on both the north and south sides of the Lane;
 - (e) 4 suggested installing parking ticks at driveways;
 - (f) 1 suggested installing speed humps in the Lane;
 - (g) 1 suggested making the Lane one-way;
 - (h) 1 suggested widening the carriageway outside the Selwyn House School.
7. Feedback from those opposed to the suggested parking restriction on the south side showed most were concerned that they would be inconvenienced by the installation of a restriction as would their visitors. Most felt that the current problems were only an issue during school days and that the suggestions were too restrictive outside these times i.e. weekends and school holidays. Most had no confidence that the restrictions would be policed by parking wardens regularly and therefore felt they would be ineffective.

8. The second round of consultation offered the following two options for comment:

Option 1:

- (a) That the status quo remain (unrestricted parking) on the south side;
- (b) That a broken yellow “no stopping” line be installed on the north side of the Lane from Winchester Street to number 75 Merivale Lane and from number 87 Merivale Lane to Papanui Road leaving some unrestricted parking between numbers 75 and 87 Merivale Lane where it can be accommodated it due to the road being wider (note that this would replace the existing (“no stopping 7am - 9am, 3pm - 4.30pm”) restriction).

Option 2:

- (a) That a “P120, 8am–4pm, School Days” parking restriction be installed on the south side of Merivale Lane between Papanui Road and Winchester Street and that parking ticks be installed at driveway entrances on the south side to help alleviate problems associated with parked vehicles encroaching over driveways;
- (b) That a broken yellow “no stopping” line be installed on the north side of the Lane from Winchester Street to number 75 Merivale Lane and from number 87 Merivale Lane to Papanui Road leaving some unrestricted parking between numbers 75 and 87 Merivale Lane where it can be accommodated due the road being wider (note that this would replace the existing (“no stopping 7am - 9am, 3pm - 4.30pm”) restriction).

9. A total of 49 consultation documents were delivered and 26 submissions were received with the following results:

Nine supported Option 1;
Eighteen supported Option 2.

10. The proposed broken yellow “no stopping” line will help alleviate the issues of congestion in the Lane by limiting parking to the south side only. It will also significantly improve visibility for residents exiting their properties and increase the general safety of the Lane by reducing pedestrian activity on the north side where there is no footpath. Some residents were concerned that the installation of a time limited parking restriction on the south side of the Lane would be too restrictive for residents and their visitors outside of school hours particularly in conjunction with the proposed broken yellow line on the north side. By limiting the restriction to “8am – 4pm School Days” (as in Option 2) residents will benefit both from the increased turn over of car parking spaces when the restriction is operative and from unrestricted parking outside school hours. The results of the second round of consultation show the majority of residents are in favour of Option 2 and therefore it is recommended that the Community Board supports this. Option 2 is considered the most cost effective and practical solution to the problems currently being experience in Merivale Lane.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 11. The installation of road signs and markings is within operational budgets.
- 12. The Land Transport Rules provide for the installation of parking restrictions including broken yellow (no stopping) lines.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board agree that:

- (a) The stopping of vehicles between 7am – 9am and 3pm – 4.30pm be revoked on the north side of Merivale Lane commencing at the Winchester Street intersection and extending in an easterly direction to the Papanui Road intersection.
- (b) The stopping of vehicles be prohibited at any time on the north side of Merivale Lane commencing at the Winchester Street intersection and extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 20 metres.
- (c) The stopping of vehicles be prohibited at any time on the north side of Merivale Lane commencing at a point 76 metres east of the Winchester Street intersection and extending in an easterly direction for a distance of 298 metres.
- (d) The parking of vehicles be limited to 2 hours between 8am – 4pm, School Days on the south side of Merivale Lane commencing at a point 20 metres east of the Winchester Street intersection and extending in an easterly direction of a distance of 354 metres.