

Blackpool Council  
Chief Executive

01 FEB 2019

Allocation .....

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The Chief Executive, Neil Jack

Executive Support Team | Blackpool Council | PO Box No 4 | Blackpool | FY1 1NF

31/01/19

c.c Mr Gordon Marsden MP

Constituency Office

304 Highfield Road

Blackpool FY4 3JX

Proposed residents parking scheme Osborne Road, Blackpool

Dear Mr Jack

It is with regret that I feel it necessary to again write directly to you regarding this matter. However, following a 3hour meeting earlier this week with Council Officer, Ian Large and Council Members, Councillor Derek Robertson and Councillor David O'Hara, Waterloo, I feel I have no alternative.

I do not intend to regurgitate my concerns highlighted in my previous unanswered letters dated 14th November, 20th November and 12th December, 2018, to the Council's Traffic Management Section. Indeed, once I noted in the published TRO that the scheme was to include business permits, my major concerns were alleviated and therefore attendance at the meeting was in the main for me to find out how the Business Permits would be allocated.

Meeting held on 28th January at the Council Offices

During the meeting, I was astonished to be told that the scheme will not include Business Permits. I referred Mr Large to Section 18 of the TRO published on the Council website which very clearly states that subject to certain conditions being met, Business Permits will be available. Mr Large could give me no reasonable explanation as to why the published scheme includes that provision, but in his words 'does not really mean that' How could anyone in sane mind read that section and conclude that Business Permits are not included in the scheme? What is the point of including that section in the TRO if business permits are not to be made available?

Indeed, when this scheme was last under consideration in November 2017, I received a letter from the Council, informing me that the proposal would allow each guest house/hotel to apply for 2 hotel permits.

I will not bore you with details of the rest of the discussion but feel it necessary to summarise my concerns about how this project has been handled by the Council.

1. It seems to me that a scheme such as this should have wholehearted support from the community it affects and I am far from convinced that is the case in this instance. The project seems to be the brainchild of Councillor Robertson who has relentlessly championed it over the past few years. My independent research makes me wonder whether it is the pursuit of the personal benefit he will gain as a resident of the scheme, rather than any benefit to the community, which has been the principle driver for his determination to have the project implemented. I would also question whether he has acted properly within the Blackpool Councils' Members Code of Conduct, as surely given his personal connection, he should have seen fit to withdraw from discussions and deliberations at an early stage of the process?

2. I have made several attempts to try to find out the process that needs to be followed from inception to implementation of a scheme such as this. It is surely not unreasonable to expect the Council to have a clearly laid out policy document setting out the various stages a Residents Parking scheme proposal needs to go through? In this case it seems to be through a big push from a local member with a vested interest, followed by a scheme cobbled together in the Traffic Department, a half-hearted consultation process and according to Mr Large, presentation of the scheme to you, as Chief Executive for final sign off.

3. The lack of consideration given to Commercial properties such as mine which will be adversely affected by the scheme. My partner and I have worked very hard over the past 8 years to build a successful business and if this scheme is implemented without including provision of business permits, I have no doubt it will have a detrimental effect on our business, both in terms of income and in future resale value.

In conclusion therefore, I appeal to your sense of fair play in this matter. I do not think I am being unreasonable to ask that Business Permits be included in the scheme and given that I have consistently been led to believe that they would be and the fact that they are included in the published TRO, it seems unfair that I am told at the very end of the consultation period that business permits will not be available. I would add that I am more than happy to pay a commercial rate for the permits.

I look forward to hearing from you

*Yours sincerely*