

PRESENTMENT

PROPOSED CAR PARK CHANGES AT HATCHET POND

Presentment by Mr Philip C Thomas

Dear Sirs

I wish to make this Presentment to the Verderers Court with reference to the proposed Car Park changes at Hatchet Pond.

I have already informed you of my views concerning the removal of the public conveniences from the car park and as this decision has already been made, I will no longer comment on it.

I see that the Proposal for the new car park is to site it further away from the Pond which I agree is of benefit to the water quality of the Pond but will also still allow a view of the Pond for the aged and infirm. I note that a number of bays will be set aside for the disabled. I have no adverse comment on the shape of the proposed car park and the positioning of the bays and I agree, as I have just mentioned, that dedicated bays for the disabled are to the good. I do wonder, however, how the direction arrows are to be made visible in the car park as stated but extra signage will assist the proposed one-way layout.

I am glad that the existing lay-by is to be removed and that verge parking it to be prevented between the entrance to the proposed car park and the junction between the B3055 (the Brockenhurst Road) and the B3054 (the Lymington Road). I have found (and no doubt others also) that when trying to negotiate this junction when travelling from Lymington to Beaulieu it has been very difficult to look to the west towards Brockenhurst to observe approaching traffic. One has almost had to drive out to the centre line of the B3055 to see any traffic due to the volume of verge parking. Some vehicles have been parked illegally on the junction, you will note that it is illegal (as stated in the Highway Code) to park within 10 m of a junction. The removal of the lay-by is of benefit as cars parked in the lay-by have also prevented a good line of sight to allow observation of traffic approaching from Brockenhurst. The removal of the verge parking and lay-by is also to the benefit of the flora which will reclaim the area so adversely affected and will also be to the benefit of the grazing animals. Whilst cycling in the National Park over the years I have noticed the damage caused to the verges of all roads, broad and narrow of verge parking and vehicles mounting the verge to pass one another, especially during the winter. May I mention the volume of verge parking which occurred during the rebuilding of "The Log House" west of the Tithe Barn alongside St Leonard's Grange in the south-east of the Forest just to the west of Buckler's Hard. During this work the number of vehicles parked on the northern side of the road opposite the entrance of the site was large. May I suggest that during all such future works held within the boundaries of the Forest monitoring of such operations be undertaken to prevent a repeat of such parking and a stipulation be written into the planning approval to prevent such an occurrence. I realise that this would come under the remit of the Planning Committee but, maybe, a comment be made by the Verderers would be of benefit.

Overall, I agree with the proposals as stated and, as I have already mentioned, am happy with the removal of the lay-by alongside the B3055 and the prevention of verge parking along this road. I see that the repositioning of the car park has been necessitated to prevent soil pollution from the existing car parking area (I noted the large pond which formed during the heavy rains of last winter which would have washed soil into the Pond, therefore increasing the turbidity and lowering the water quality) and understand the need to reduce the human impact on the Pond (I contacted Forestry England on two occasions last summer to inform them of illegal boating on the Pond, in fact I likened it on one occasion to be busier than Henley on Regatta Day). I do hope that this proposal will decrease those two impacts and allow the Pond to

return to its natural state as mentioned in the Presentment made to the Verderers Court by the Deputy Surveyor.

Philip C Thomas