

**Statement on behalf of Hampton in Arden Parish Council  
6 August 2024**

Following the post over the weekend by the Fentham Trust regarding parking issues in and around Fentham Hall and Soho Tavern, the Parish Council felt it would be helpful to share the following additional information about parking within Hampton in Arden.

Firstly, whilst most of the concerns being raised by residents relate to the parking in and around Fentham Hall/Soho Tavern we fully appreciate there are several other parking issues and concerns that have been raised by residents. These include:

- The junction of High Street and Marsh Lane
- The High Street from the Vicarage to opposite the Village Stores
- Shadowbrook Lane in and around the Recreation Ground car park
- Around the school for short periods in the morning and afternoon at drop off and pick up times

Unfortunately, apart from the Recreation Ground itself, the Parish Council does not own any land within the Village that could be made available for additional parking at these locations. Nor does it have the funds!

The common denominators of all parking issues within the Village are a combination of:

- Residents who do not have their own off-street parking
- Passing trade visiting or delivering to local shops and businesses
- Parents driving their children to and from school
- Longer stay visitors to Soho Tavern, Fentham Hall, The White Lion, local Shops, or the Church and which are each unable to provide sufficient parking of their own at peak times or when events are happening at more than one venue.
- People who are travelling on holiday from Birmingham Airport and see the roads in the Village as a cheap parking option

As well as having no land, the Parish Council also has limited powers to resolve the problem independently itself and so has been working with SMBC, Highways and enforcement who do have the powers.

Any solution, however, needs to be balanced as whilst we obviously want to support residents' concerns about parking, we also have a duty to protect the trade of local businesses.

The solutions that have been considered to date include a request by some residents to introduce a permit parking system around properties that do not have their own or sufficient shared off-street parking. We declined supporting this request feeling it would create an unwelcome precedent that would then make it hard to refuse future similar requests in other locations.

Proposed restrictions we are taking forward, following a resident's consultation last year, comprise:

- 1) Double yellow lines at the junction of High Street and Marsh Lane to replace the existing "Keep Clear" and "H" road markings
- 2) Double yellow lines at the junction of Marsh Lane and Fentham Road
- 3) Double yellow lines at the junction of Marsh Lane and Elm Tree Rise (on the village side only)
- 4) Double yellow lines on the corner of Shadowbrook Lane from the Recreation Ground Car Park to the Telephone Exchange
- 5) Single yellow line on the High Street opposite the Village Stores between the terraced houses and the entrance to The Manor

*Hampton-in-Arden Parish Council*

Unfortunately, there is a due process that has to be followed to implement these restrictions and as you would expect the Parish Council is not able to short cut this process. We are therefore very much dependent on SMBC and Highways timescales. It is our hope these restrictions will be in place by the end of this financial year.

Once in place, SMBC will then be able to enforce the restrictions which at the same time will hopefully pick up other problem parking (including any illegal parking on pavements or across driveways).

In the meantime, we are supporting The Fentham Trust as they continue their discussions with SMBC Planning and Highways to try and obtain approval to make the temporary overflow car park and permanent additional car park.

In addition, we have been liaising with SMBC to ensure overhanging vegetation is cut back along footpaths. This means even if there is pavement parking the footpaths are not further compromised.

Similarly, we recently organised SMBC to cut back and maintain going forward the roadside vegetation on Marsh Lane between Rose Cottage and Orchard Barns. Although not directly related to parking we are also working with SMBC to ensure in other locations residents and landowners are cutting back overgrown vegetation that is obstructing either footpaths or roads.

Whilst we recognise the proposed new parking restrictions might make the relevant junctions/locations safer we fully appreciate it will not solve the problem completely or reduce the volume of traffic and demand for parking.

We would therefore also ask residents to play their own part in trying to reduce this volume and wherever possible walk rather than drive within the village, especially when visiting the locations mentioned above.

Although it has already mentioned in the Fentham Trust post we wanted to again highlight all your Local Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who spend an awful lot of their own time trying to make the Parish and surrounding areas a safe and enjoyable place for everyone to live. It is therefore unfair to suggest on social media that they are not already doing everything they can.

Finally, if any residents are concerned or have any points, they would like to raise about the above information please direct these in formal communication to our Clerk so we can respond. We can also more easily deal with similar points that might be raised by more than one person.

The contact details of the Parish Council are [clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk](mailto:clerk@hamptoninarden.org.uk) or 01675 442017