

[REDACTED]

16 March 2011.

Dear Sirs,

Proposed Parking Restrictions

I am writing to you about the proposed new restrictions on Beacon Hill and Parkhill Road.

1. Firstly it has been impossible to inspect any plans showing clearly what is intended. I have seen the Notice fixed to a post, which was not at all clear, so I went to the council offices as directed in the notice. No one there knew anything about it and no plans were available for inspection. I was just given a copy of a general order. That is not good enough. I have even now only a very general idea of the council's intention and in a democratic society the council should not be able to foist restrictions on the public, particularly residents directly affected by the changes, without making its intentions absolutely clear.
2. I am very concerned about further parking restrictions around the Harbour.
3. I live on Beacon Terrace and, in the summer, it is often impossible to park anywhere near my home, in or out of a car park. Parking outside my front door is almost always full. I can't even stop to unload shopping or my very small grandchildren. Frequently I have to drive my car half way to Wellwood before I find a space. This is going to be worse now that there is to be no permitted parking at all on Victoria Parade, or as far as I can see on the Northern end of Parkhill Road, which up till now has been a lifesaver.
4. There are only a very few parking spaces on Beacon Hill and the Northern end of Parkhill Road, so restricting them to residents would have no appreciable impact on the economy of the Harbour, but would be hugely beneficial to people who live here and support the economy here year round.
5. I wrote to the council a number of years ago asking for residents parking on Beacon Hill, to be told that it was not council policy to allow residents parking. Now just about everywhere in the area is restricted to residents parking, except Beacon Hill and the Northern end of Parkhill Road. Pressure on parking in the area is making life here unsustainable for residents on Beacon Hill, except for those too old or too poor to have a vehicle. I have been told before that it is not the council's duty to make my life easier, but, it is not just me, it is all the residents of the area, and in fact it is the council's obligation to look after the interests of people who live in the bay, and pay the council tax, which pays the council's bills. The wellbeing

of residents should be the first priority of the council elected to represent them and paid for by them.

6. I can hear you all saying that I can buy an annual permit in the car park, but that is equivalent to a 50% increase in my council tax, and I cannot afford it, and in any case, such a ticket does not guarantee a space. For those visiting the area, the parking fee is only a nominal addition to the cost of their day or evening out, which they probably expected to pay in any case.
7. The parking situation is now so bad that every time my daughter has visited me from [REDACTED] in the past year, with her three children all under 5, she has managed to pick up a penalty, even when she has paid £26 for a week's permit, so enthusiastic are the parking wardens around here. Although I live within yards of the sea, I choose to drive to Goodrington with the children, because generally I can't leave my car anywhere near beach or home from where I could otherwise walk to a beach, so it is easier to drive it out of town for the day. Is that good for Torquay? I don't think so.
8. Frequently Beacon Hill is full of parked cars displaying disabled badges, which often stay for hours on end. I have nothing against the disabled, but the car park is just yards away and user friendly for the disabled, so I do not see why they should be allowed to inconvenience everyone else. At the risk of sounding politically incorrect, it is particularly galling to see BMW's, other smart and low slung convertibles parked on Beacon Hill all day, monopolising all the spaces, displaying disabled badges. There is in particular one blue jaguar XJS with a disabled badge, whose driver I have seen hop nimbly out, open the boot of his car, get out his fold up bike, and cycle off for the day, without a hint of a limp. Whether they are genuinely disabled or not, I really cannot see why they should not use the car park and pay a fee like the rest of us. If they can afford a car, particularly that sort, they can afford a ticket.
9. The same cannot be said of everyone who lives here for whom the recurrent cost and problem of parking is prohibitive.

May I please urge you to reconsider your proposals and to give due consideration to the interests of those of us who still live on the harbour and give it life and purpose all day, every day, all year round.

Yours faithfully,

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