

Press Releases - The Council Parking Byelaws must wait - 01/09/00

Costello calls on manager to extend deadline

The deadline for submissions by residents on the Council's plans to introduce parking restrictions throughout the County lapsed on September 1st. According to John Guckian, Senior Administrative Officer, Roads and Traffic Department, the deadline is somewhat flexible. This is not good enough according to Councillor Eoin Costello.

"The Council launched this plan in the height of summer when a large number of residents are away on holidays. The closing date coincides with children returning to school and people in the areas affected have not been in a position to respond on time. In the interest of public accountability the Council really should extend the deadline to the 1st October. It is also clear that the Council should extend these draft byelaws to all areas affected by QBC commuter parking such as Cabinteely and Cornelscourt."

"Another major concern is that the Council also only distributed leaflets concerning the proposals to very limited areas in the area beside the DART stations but not to the areas near DART stations. They are the areas that are going to be hit by the displacement of commuter parking."

In response to pressure from Councillors the Council organised meetings with residents groups, meeting groups from Blackrock and Booterstown on August 24th, Dun Laoghaire, Dalkey, Sandycove, Killiney and Shankill on 25th August, Monkstown and Glenageary on 29th August and Dundrum and Stillorgan on Wednesday 30th August.

At these meetings residents have stated they are very unhappy about the way the plan was introduced. Residents feel that the findings of the Buchanan report, on which the Council's byelaws are based, are flawed. In many cases residents felt that maps and plans were found to be misleading.

The next stage is that the Council will go through all the submissions, which are thought to exceed 200 separate

submissions. A report will be prepared to be presented to the Council's Area Committees and subsequently to the main Council for decision.

After the Council have processed the submissions received and the plan is brought before the Council the next stage will be a detailed surveys of the areas identified in the plan on the ground by Council engineers. According to the Council this will iron out difficulties in the current plans where they illustrate parking on both sides of streets that residents feel are too narrow for emergency vehicles.

According to Councillor Eoin Costello there are many questions outstanding. For example what will happen in a situation where an old house with no off street parking in a preservation area has been sub-divided to accommodate a number of families. They are precluded from turning the front garden into parking spaces due to the preservation order. The Council byelaws indicate that each dwelling will only get one resident's permit. The whole house may be judged to be one dwelling and thus the families in the split dwelling will only get one permit between them all. The Council needs to look at the definition of what they regard a dwelling to be.

"I have been amazed by the number of residents who have contacted me through my website (www.eoincostello.ie) and most are extremely angry about the consultation period. Having dabbled with parking plans for nearly a decade Council officials have now gone to the other extreme of wanting the whole plan and byelaws rushed through in a couple of months.

The council must extend this deadline and at the same time notify residents in areas bordering the current plans as they are going to be the people who will have to put up with displaced commuter parking.