

How will PHP balance the conflicting needs of protecting ‘green’ areas and meeting residents needs for parking?

A dilemma that PHP often face is balancing residents’ needs for adequate parking provision in their neighbourhood, with protecting green, open spaces.

In line with the Borough of Poole’s policy on protecting green areas, PHP will always promote the preservation of green or open space over the creation of parking facilities. PHP will only consider creating parking spaces where the lack of parking is particularly severe and no alternative solution is available.

PHP will work with public and community transport providers to make sure that the best use is made of public transport, and over time dependence on the car is reduced.

While parking on a public footway is illegal, and anyone doing so will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice, PHP may consider the possibility of seeking an Order to allow parking (either partly or wholly) on defined sections of a footway.

This will only be considered where there is a major parking problem and where a clear width of 2 metres would remain to safely accommodate a wheelchair or double buggy, and the road is wide enough to allow vehicles to pass when a car, or other vehicle is parked.

In considering this option, there would be a need to strengthen the footway and kerbs and to make sure that pedestrians (particularly those with a sight impairment) have a clear route around any parked vehicles. PHP and the Council would also need to be satisfied that pedestrians would not be endangered when vehicles manoeuvre into spaces.

As cost is a major concern when considering this option and it can be difficult to justify legitimising footway parking in some areas and not others, the Council and PHP may also consider redefining the road space. This could include looking at whether it is more appropriate to widen the carriageway to provide parking bays or shared surface arrangements.

The improvement of existing parking provision, and reusing existing hard standing areas will always be considered in preference to cutting into existing green areas.

Where a problem is exceptionally severe and there is no alternative to creating parking spaces using part of a green area, PHP will undertake to improve the quality of remaining green area through landscaping or planting.

Project proposals and budgeting for the project need to include the proposals for improving the quality of remaining green space. Any parking will be sympathetic in design to the 'streetscape' of a neighbourhood.