

Introduction

Over the last two weeks we have carried out interviews with all of the residents on station road who would be affected by the introduction of double yellow lines. The questionnaire used is copied at the end of this document for ease of reference.

As requested the schematic developed by KCC was shown to residents to avoid any ambiguity over what was being proposed. Given the relatively small number of people involved we took the trouble to speak with all residents on a one-to-one basis to fully understand any reservations they might have but also used questions to help quantify the strength of opinion. Sadly, one resident passed away during the period we were conducting the research so the results are based on 17 of the 18 households impacted but this is as close to a census as is possible to achieve.

Summary

There is widespread support for the introduction of yellow lines as set out in KCC's schematic. Residents regard the current situation as dangerous and getting worse.

While there is widespread support for the yellow lines people do have concerns over the increase in traffic speed that may result. *Would it be possible to increase the 30MPH restriction so it starts at Chambers Green Road?*

People are also concerned that the yellow lines will simply move the parking nuisance onto Chambers Green Road, Dowle St and further up Station Road. *Would it be possible to use single yellow lines with specific time limits to help mitigate this?*

Residents are also aware that additional parking at the station would be beneficial and provide a "joined up" solution but feel additional car parking, without yellow lines being introduced, would not work as people would continue to park on the road. We understand additional parking at the station is not something KCC can help with and we will continue to push Network Rail to introduce a new car park.

Key Findings

Q1 Which of the following options best describes your opinion of the proposed changes?

All of the residents thought the yellow lines were a good idea with 71% suggesting they were an excellent idea, 11% thought they were a good idea and 18% thought they were a good idea but they had some reservations. We probed these further in Q2 and have noted comments

While not specifically part of the question we also looked to understand people's key concerns and why they wanted to see the yellow lines introduced. Key reasons included:

- Extreme difficulty and danger getting in and out of drives due to restricted visibility caused by parked cars and the speed of cars passing
- Damage to verges – all the way up, including collapse of haunches into ditches.
- Dangerous, one-way traffic situation resulting from parked cars, leading to congestion, particularly when large lorries are going through.
- Highly dangerous walking route for pedestrians (and wheeled pedestrians – pushchairs and wheelchairs) going from and to the station.
- Blocked access to properties from irresponsible parking.
- While it didn't used to be an issue parking is now becoming an issue at weekends so there is no respite
- The majority of the cars parking on the road are doing so to avoid paying parking fees which seems unfair to residents
- The lack of a footpath with restricted road width means cars are passing very close to pedestrians
- Cars are accelerating to get passed the parked cars before something comes the other way
- Tractors and lorries leave no room for anyone else using the road
- Loss of visual amenity caused by cars being parked
- Litter being dumped by cars and broken glass being on the road on a regular basis as wing mirrors are hit by other cars

Q2 Do you have any reservations about the introduction of yellow lines?

We sought to further understand any reservations that resident might have and while 65% had no reservations, even when probed, 35% did indicate that they had some reservations. Responses to this question are quite insightful and help to reflect the concerns of residents which should be considered and potentially addressed.

- Traffic could potentially travel even faster on this stretch of road if the parked cars are not there to slow vehicles
- Double yellow lines are quite visible/prominent would a single yellow with a specific time parking restriction e.g. 11.00 – 12.00 work
- Ability for delivery vehicles to park and deliver
- Possible decline in passengers using the station which might in turn lead to a reduction in service
- Will the parking restrictions be enforced?

- The yellow lines could just lead to cars being parked further up station road, into Chambers Green Road (Vehicles are already parking here during busy times) and Dowle St

Q3 Will there still be enough car parking for residents if the yellow lines are introduced?

The vast majority of people (82%) said there would still be enough parking for residents and most people pointed out that all of the houses had their own drives and couldn't see how this would be an issue. Nobody thought there wouldn't be enough parking for residents and just 18% weren't sure. The primary reason for people being unsure revolved around parking for visitors.

Q4 Would the yellow lines be more effective if they were extended onto Chambers Green Road, Dowle St and further up Station Road.

Again the vast majority of residents (71%) thought they would be more effective with just (29%) being unsure and nobody suggesting they would be less effective if they were continued. As noted above we are already seeing cars parking on Chambers Green Road and in our discussions with Network Rail they suggested yellow lines should extend at least 500m from the station to deter on street parking. Several people suggested that rather than extending the double yellow lines it might be more sympathetic/appropriate to have a single yellow line that banned parking for a fixed time each day. This approach is currently in place in Headcorn and it was also suggested that Staplehurst and Marden have similar restrictions, but this has not been verified by the Parish Council. *Can you advise?*

Q5 Do you think the current level of parking on Station Road is dangerous?

In total 94% of residents felt that the current level of parking was dangerous and just one person felt it wasn't. Their concern was that unless speed restrictions were enforced and potentially extended, traffic would pass through the area even faster so it would be even more dangerous.

Q6 To what extent do you feel the introduction of additional car parking at the station is critical to the success of the proposed parking restrictions?

Results to this question were quite mixed but 90% of residents thought additional car parking would be important with 47% suggesting it would be critical and 24% saying they were very important. The reasons for the responses were interesting and the key

driver for wanting to see more parking at the station was to provide a more holistic solution to the problem. People understand that the yellow lines will cause displacement of vehicles, worry they will be parked on adjacent roads, can see that a “joined up” approach is the best way forward but want to see yellow lines introduced regardless. Having noted this there are a significant proportion who are totally fed up with the problem and are not really worried what happens if cars are prevented from parking on Station Road.

Q7 If there are any other comments you’d like to make please use the space below.

To try and make this analysis more concise many of the comments provided have been incorporated in the above analysis and commentary but there were a couple of additional thoughts which are worth noting.

- The owner of Estuary Cars would like to see double yellow lines introduced outside the garage as well
- Several people mentioned the lack of a footpath and how much easier it would be if there was some way of providing a footpath between Chambers Green and the Station. People appreciate that putting a footpath in would be challenging but several people asked why it wouldn’t be possible to put a path (even a non-tarmaced one) behind the bollards that have been put in by KCC.

Questionnaire with answers in percentages

Car Parking on Station Road Resident Questionnaire

Pluckley Parish Council has been liaising with Kent County Council (KCC) over options to restrict parking on Station Road (the stretch between Chambers Green Road and The Grove) due to the dangers it poses to: pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. The introduction of parking restrictions was part of the village’s transport plan which was formally adopted in December 2024 and the attached diagrams provided by KCC show the extent of the proposed yellow lines.

The Parish Council is fully aware that displacing cars, which normally park on this stretch of road, may cause problems as on certain days, principally Tuesday to Thursday, the station car park is full. To help address this we have spoken and had meetings with Network and Southeastern Rail to try and persuade them to create

additional car parking on the North side of the Station (the old Fordham's Coal Yard site).

We'd really appreciate it if you could take 5 minutes to answer the following questions as your views, as residents directly affected by the proposed changes, are important in the decision-making process.

1) Which of the following options best describes your opinion of the proposed changes.

It's an excellent idea	1	(71%)
It's a good idea	2	(11%)
It's a good idea but I have reservations	3	(18%)
It's not a good idea	4	-
It's a very poor idea	5	-

2) Do you have any reservations about the introduction of the yellow lines?

Yes	1 (35%)	(Please outline these in the space provided below)
No	2 (65%)	
Not sure	3 -	

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3) Will there still be enough car parking for residents if the yellow lines are introduced

Yes	No	Not sure
(82%)	-	(18%)

4) Would the yellow lines be more effective if they were extended onto Chambers Green Road, Dowle Street and further up Station Road.

Yes	No	Not sure
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(71%)

-

(29%)

5) Do you think the current level of car parking on Station Road is dangerous

Yes

No

Not sure

(94%)

(6%)

6) To what extent do you feel the introduction of additional car parking at the station is critical to the success of the proposed parking restrictions

Critical	1	(47%)
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Very important	2	(24%)
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Important but not essential	3	(19%)
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Not important	4	(5%)
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Not important at all	5	(5%)
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7) If there are any other comments you'd like to make please use the space below

Name

Address