

Report to:	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Date of Meeting:	Monday 18 June 2018
Subject:	Ford View, Litherland - Objections to Disabled Parking Place		
Report of:	Head of Locality Services - Commissioned	Wards Affected:	Ford
Portfolio:			
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To report the receipt of objections to a proposed Disabled Parking Place.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that:-

- (i) The objections be noted;
- (ii) The Disabled Parking Place be progressed as originally advertised;
- (iii) The objectors be advised accordingly.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Council has the power to revoke a Traffic Regulation Order (Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984) as well as the power to make a new Traffic Regulation Order (Section 1 of that Act). Authorisation to advertise new Traffic Regulation Orders falls under the remit of Cabinet Member Locality Services.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

All costs associated with the introduction of the Traffic Regulation Order, amounting to £1000 will be funded from the 2018/19 Traffic Management Revenue budget.

(B) Capital Costs

All costs associated with the conversion of the grass verge to a parking area, amounting to approximately £15000 will either be funded by One Vision Housing, or by Sefton MBC via the local Ward budget and Capital Programme. Further financial approvals will be sought at a later date if Sefton MBC has to fund the works.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications:
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Will assist a resident with disabilities
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5147/18)) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 4371/18) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

The proposed waiting restrictions have been advertised in the Bootle Champion on 15 February 2018, with a 21 day objection period ending on 8 March 2018.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

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Email Address:	steve.johnston@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 On 18 October 2017, an application was made for the introduction of a Disabled Parking Place associated with 14 Ford View, Litherland.
- 1.2 As part of Sefton's procedures, the applicant supplied a completed application form, detailing his disability and vehicle details, copies of his blue badge, together with a medical form completed by his Consultant at Aintree Hospital.
- 1.3 These details were checked, and a number of parking surveys carried out to establish the level of parking within the applicant's mobility range, as stated by his Consultant.
- 1.4 The application satisfied all criteria for the provision of a Disabled Parking Space, and the parking surveys clarified that there were never any spare parking spaces available at peak times. A photo showing the parking situation at 17:00hrs is attached as Annex A.
- 1.5 As a consequence, the application was approved, and authorisation sought from Cabinet Member – Locality Services to advertise the proposed Traffic Regulation Order. The proposal was subsequently advertised in the Bootle Champion on 15 February 2018, with a 21 day objection period ending on 8 March 2018.
- 1.6 A letter of objection, signed by 15 residents of Ford View, was received within the Department on 5 March 2018.

2.0 Objection

- 2.1 A copy of the objection, with the names and addresses removed for anonymity, is attached as Annex B.
- 2.2 The objection is signed by 15 residents, who live in 10 of the houses within the cul-de-sac. For Members' information, there are 15 properties within the cul-de-sac.
- 2.3 As can be seen from the letter of objection, the residents are objecting for two main reasons:-
 - They claim that the applicant's disability is not severe enough to warrant a Disabled Parking Place.
 - The amount of on-street parking spaces is insufficient for all of the vehicle owners in the cul-de-sac, and that they are being discriminated against if we provide a dedicated parking space for the applicant.

3.0 Discussion

- 3.1 In response to the first part of the objection, it should be noted that before any application is approved by officers, documented proof must be supplied by the applicant as to the extent of their disability. In this case, a confidential medical

form and accompanying letter has been provided by his Consultant. These clearly outline the applicant's disability and gives a mobility range up to 10 metres.

- 3.2 In response to the second point of objection, by their own admission, the residents have confirmed that there is insufficient space within the cul-de-sac, and as a Local Authority, we are duty bound to assist disabled residents who have difficulty securing a parking space within their mobility range.
- 3.3 The letter of objection also mentions the large grass verge which runs on one side of Ford View. A plan showing the layout of the cul-de-sac is shown as Annex C. Whilst the carriageway and footway is owned and maintained by Sefton Council, the grass verge is owned and maintained by One Vision Housing (OVH).
- 3.4 As a result of the very strong feelings against the applicant and the proposed Disable Bay, Ward Members, officers from Sefton's Neighbourhoods Team and Highway Safety Team have met with officers from OVH to discuss whether the situation can be eased by the conversion of the grass verge into a parking area.
- 3.5 At the meeting, it was accepted that something needed to be done, with Ward Members suggesting that they would be willing to fund the work and subsequent adoption of the new parking area, with a contribution from the Capital Programme (Environmental improvements in residential areas). Officers from OVH suggested, however, that as the grass verge was in their ownership, the responsibility for the area, and costs for converting it to a parking area, should remain with OVH. As a result, it is intended that the matter would be taken to their Asset Management Board for a decision to be made. At the time of preparing this report, officers are still awaiting the outcome of OVH's Asset Management Board, so it is unclear as to who will fund the works. A verbal update will be given to L&R Committee Members during their meeting on 18 June 2018.

4.0 Proposal


- 4.1 Under the constitution of this Committee, Members can either:-
 - a) approve the scheme as proposed, or;
 - b) approve the scheme with minor amendments, or;
 - c) refer the scheme to the Cabinet Member Locality Services indicating the Committee's view on how the proposal should be progressed.
- 4.2 Having reviewed the applicant's supporting documentation and results of the parking surveys, it is considered that the objections should be over-ruled and the proposed Disabled Parking Place be progressed as originally advertised.
- 4.3 It is further proposed that officers from Sefton's Neighbourhoods Team and Highway Safety Team continue to liaise with Ward Members and OVH with a view to converting the grass verge into a parking area as soon as possible.






ANNEX A

04/03/2018

Dear Mr or Mrs Marrin

I and the vast majority of the residents of Ford View HEREBY SERVE YOU NOTICE of our collective absolute objection to your notice served on A4 paper on a lamppost in Ford View, with the councils intention of agreeing to provide a parking restriction in favour of the resident of No  Ford View.

For many years we have asked Sefton Council for help in removing the grass verges in our small close to help with the chaotic parking problems we face as residents in Ford View. These problems have led to many arguments between neighbours and is a real concern which could well lead to anti-social behaviour in the future. The grass verges (and limited entry into Ford View cause double parking and problems for pedestrians having to walk on the road instead of on the pavement) have been sold off to one vision housing who do not wish to help and are simply not bothered. I have wrote many times to Cllr's Lappin and Moncur and Peter Dowd MP and all have shown no interest whatsoever in our problems because in the main it does not affect them. If they lived here they would be interested in solving the problem.

We have even asked the council for one permit for each resident to park one car each so others who don't live here cannot park. This has been rejected by Colin Taylor of the Traffic Management department of Sefton Council who in an email to the resident of No , stated that any parking restrictions in Ford View would create a knock on effect and is not possible. So with what Colin Taylor has told the resident at No  by email, it simply beggars belief that your department is going against his words and serving us notice of a parking restriction in favour of one resident. I have campaigned for the help of Sefton Council, One Vision Housing and people who govern for over 10 years now as a council tax payer to solve this very big problem in our very small street. No one is interested. So as neighbours we have accepted that help is not coming our way. We try to help each other the best we can accept the resident of No 

Let me tell you about No [redacted]. Up until last year a disabled person lived there. A lovely man who used a wheelchair and understood our parking problems. He had many members of his family who came to visit him and he was always getting in and out of cars daily but he refused to put in for a parking place as he had respect for us all. The resident of No [redacted] now parks within 5 feet of his doorway 99% of the time. He walks freely unaided and when he has no space by his house he parks on Ford Lane and walks up Ford View like we all have to do. He doesn't use a wheelchair or walking stick. He may well hold a disabled permit badge but we have photographic evidence of the resident walking up from Ford Lane from his car carrying ladders and 6 bottles of 2 litres of water. This is something I would struggle to do and I am abled bodied. When the resident moved in my neighbour was unloading her car and heard the mother of the resident of No [redacted] say "The parking available here is awful, don't worry though we will apply for a disabled bay and that will guarantee you a space". That is totally selfish and disrespectful to all of us other residents who have had to cope years of parking problems before he arrived. Why is a space going to be made available to No [redacted] when he can do all the tasks that all the other residents do?. Maybe this should be looked at by yourselves who issue blue badges out or maybe the DWP who I'm sure would be most interested.

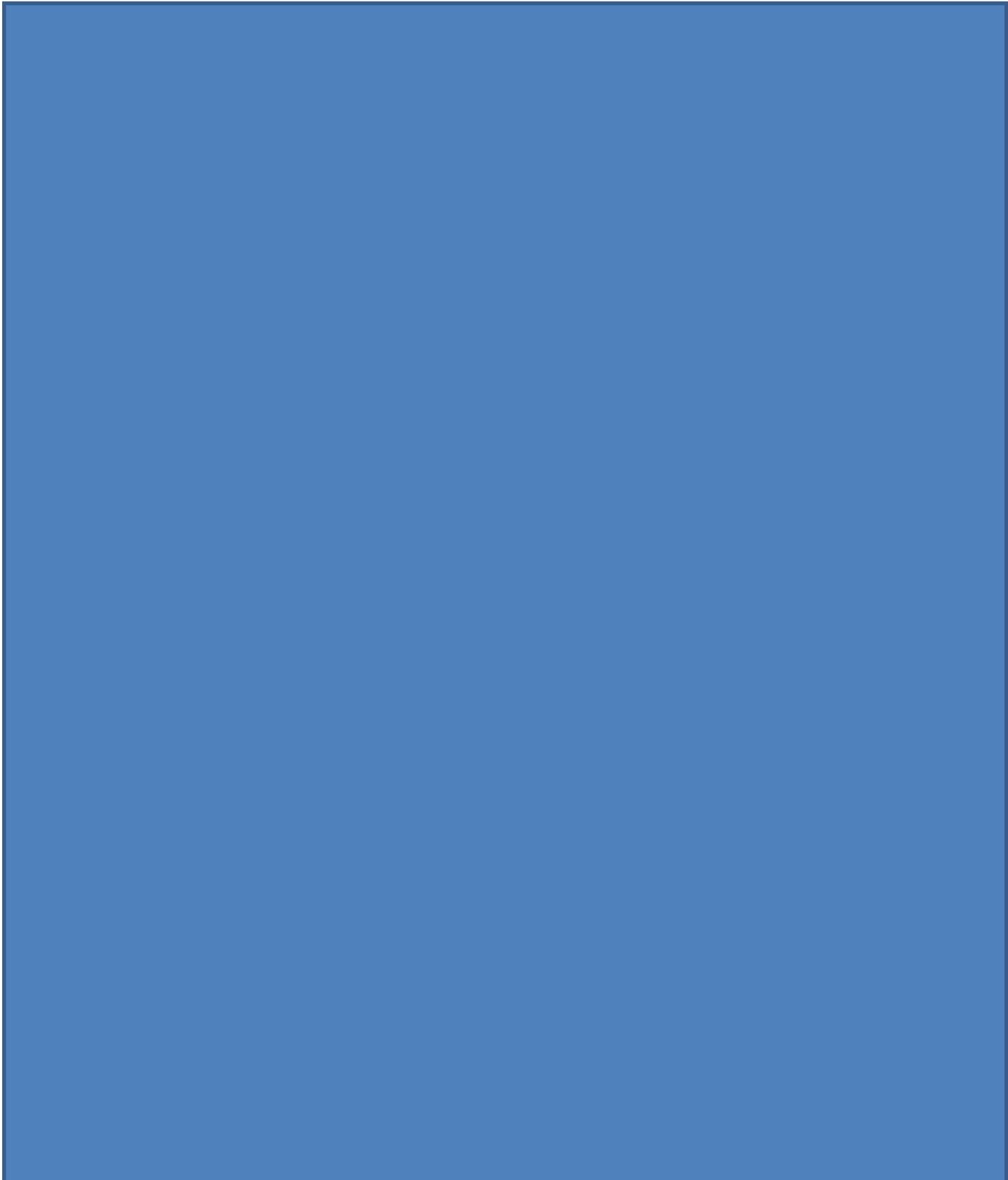
Residents at No [redacted] and No [redacted] are people who could apply for a disabled bay but don't as they understand the problems it would bring. The bay you propose to provide would take up the space of two cars in a small street crying out for parking space. The resident at No [redacted] has no problems as it is now as he uses his car for a few hours a few times a week but in daytime hours. This means when he returns he parks 5 foot away from his house every single day while all the other residents are using their cars for work and return after 5-6pm when No [redacted] is safely at home and we are left fighting over what is left. He has no need whatsoever to apply for this restriction. The parking problems never affect him just everyone else. Like the likes of myself who has to park in the middle of the road because there is nowhere else to park. If this bay goes ahead he will find bigger problems ahead for himself as residents will have no choice but to block him in.

This parking restriction will not only go against the email of Sefton Councils Colin Taylor but will go against the needs of us residents in Ford View. This bay is simply not needed for a man very capable of walking to his home with heavy items. If Sefton council go ahead with this I personally after asking for help for years from yourselves, will take the view that the council are discriminating against me and my neighbours because we are not disabled. This application is just wrong. Myself and my neighbours are willing collectively to call the local press, take legal advice and even go to court to stop this happening. It is nothing short of a disgrace if this goes ahead and it will certainly cause a lot more problems especially for No [redacted] when he wants back his car down the street.

I am very hopefully you will contact me on [redacted] or better still arrange to meet me at Ford View so you can see the problems we have. We have the evidence of emails from Colin Taylor, Councillors and Peter Dowd MP available and the photographic evidence to prove No [redacted] has no problems parking or walking for that matter or carrying heavy items.

Attached is the signatures of all the residents of Ford View who will suffer from this selfish application.

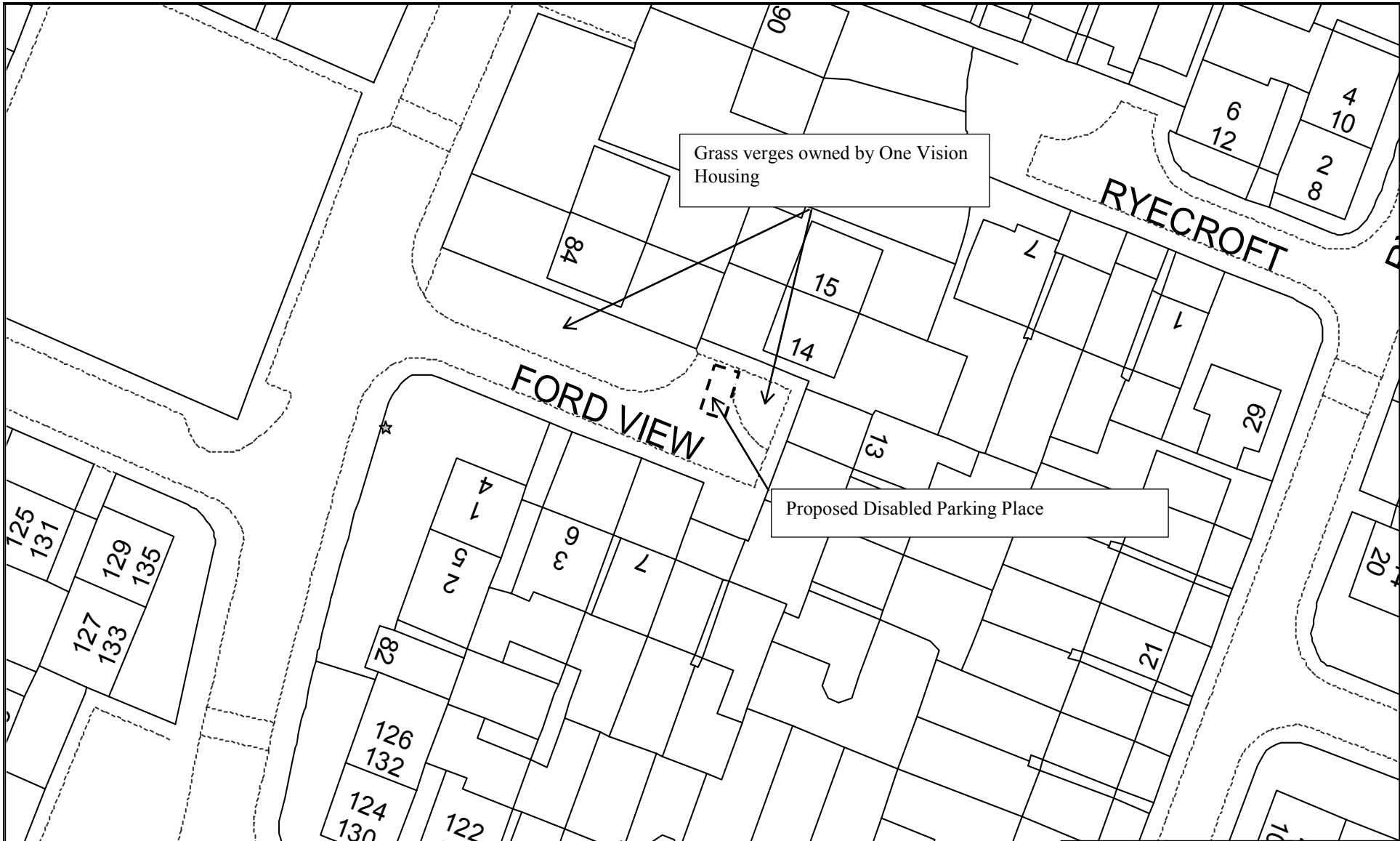
I await contact from you as a matter of urgency. Thankyou




Please find below bullet pointed a few of the many reasons we collectively and absolutely object to the disabled parking bay, furthermore we as residents should have been consulted on this application and have not been.

We do not accept a piece of paper posted on a lamp post as acceptable; it is not in a clear or visible location to all residents. Some residents leave for work when it is still dark outside and return home in the dark due to our working hours, thus meaning not everyone was aware of the notice. Therefore our views and objections have not been able to be put forward and have not and are not being taken into consideration.

- * The interests of the owners and occupiers of other properties within the street.
- * Residents have not been consulted or properly advised on the proposed disabled parking bay.
- * Disabled parking spaces could not be provided for all entitled applicants, therefore making it unfair to provide for some but not others.
- * The disabled bay would deny other residents from parking outside their property.
- * Impossible to park on both sides of the street.
- * Traffic flow.
- * Road safety.
- * Current parking situations and a grass verge of a large scale with metal bollards already pose difficulties for refuse collections to be made. (We pay for this service within our council tax).
- * Current parking situations and a grass verge of a large scale with metal bollards already pose difficulties for fire services to access the street in an emergency. (We pay for this service if ever needed within our council tax).
- * Insufficient parking for the number of residents
- * Parking is restricted for residents.
- * Narrow street – parking is mostly restricted to one side of the street.
- * The applicant has an able bodied person who can drop off and collect outside the house as and when needed and could also park the vehicle further down for them.



METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SEFTON	Title Ford View, Litherland	Drawn <i>SJ</i>	
Jim Black	Proposed Disabled Parking Space	Scale <i>NTS</i>	
Head of Locality Services - Commissioned		Date <i>May 2018</i>	