

COUNCIL – 15 NOVEMBER 2022

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR C SEWELL TO COUNCILLOR K MERRIE

“I would like to ask this Council to liaise more closely with LCC Highways to change conditions surrounding parking provision required for planning applications, both new builds and change of use for domestic properties: i.e. change of use to HMOs where no, or insufficient parking exists.

My understanding is that Leicestershire County Council Highways will only object on the grounds of ‘safety’ and my own personal experience is that shortfall in parking spaces is not considered to be a ground for refusal for an application, although it does indeed make the highway less safe, e.g. parking close to junctions and on corners, thus reducing visibility. Also, residents are being greatly inconvenienced when refuse/recycling cannot be collected due to parked cars blocking access.

What can this Council do about this?”

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR K MERRIE TO COUNCILLOR C SEWELL

“I am aware that the Council’s Head of Planning and Infrastructure has been in contact with Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Highways about this matter and they have confirmed that they currently do not have any standards covering parking requirements for HMO’s although they do now rely on information from the 2021 census, which includes evidence for HMO’s for the first time. As such, they will consider each application on its own merits and will advise whether the proposals will have an adverse impact on highway safety. They will also consider the advice contained in Paragraph 111 of the National Planning Policy Framework which states that “Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe”.

I can assure you that where issues are raised by the Parish Council and neighbouring residents, the Council’s Planning Officers will challenge LCC Highways on the response they have given. Ultimately, if there is no objection on highway grounds from the Council’s professional advisors, this is the position officers will need to take account of when making a decision or recommendation on the application.

However, I am aware that LCC Highways are in the process of reviewing the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide, which includes parking standards, and the Council’s Planning Team will be invited to feed into this process at which time they can raise the issue of on street parking resulting from HMO’s and the need to consider whether parking standards for these types of property is appropriate.”