

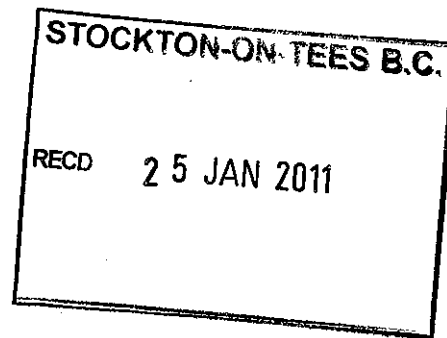
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FAO Mr. David Bond,
Head of Law & Democracy
Stockton Borough Council.
Municipal Buildings
Church Road
Stockton-on-Tees

24th January, 2011.

Dear Sir,



Your Ref:TS/T/15/1

**Objection to proposed waiting restrictions on Yarm Road, Stockton
at Yarm Road Methodist Church**

On behalf of Yarm Road Methodist Church, I object to the proposed imposition of a 24 hour waiting ban on that stretch of Yarm Road from Woodland Street to Northcote Street – albeit as exception is made for funerals and weddings.

You will be aware that Yarm Road Methodist Church has very limited on-site car parking and therefore relies heavily on on-street parking at the front of the church (Yarm Road), and on the side roads flanking either side of the church (Woodland Street and Grove Street). We wish to avoid parking in front of the dwellings in these side streets as much as possible, in respect of the residents' amenity. The church has recently been granted planning consent – Reference 10/2504/FUL – for a major refurbishment and extension to the church hall, as part of its involvement with the local community to utilise the church hall for community purposes.

Currently the church is used for Sunday worship. The large church hall and other rooms are used most days, for a range of uses, both in the evening and daytime – for youth activities, a parent and child group, indoor bowls, lunches, discussion and entertainment groups, drama, training and teaching. It is intended that these uses will intensify and be added to –including, a toy library, café, dance and fitness and in the longer term a climbing wall.

The effect of this Order will be to push more parking into the residential side streets – five cars from the frontage and possibly a further 2-4 from the proposed restrictions going 10 metres into Woodland Street and Grove Street from the junction with Yarm Road. Although the church has informal arrangements with some businesses on Yarm Road to use their car parks when they are not using them – generally after 6.00pm. and at weekends –

we rely heavily on on-street parking. Many of the congregation and some visitors to the church activities are elderly and wish to park near to the church or are given lifts to church. Our church serves a wide area of Stockton, with the majority travelling to the church by car.

The reason for the Council proposing this Order is "for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs".

This Order will not achieve either of those aims with relation to Yarm Road Methodist Church, it will be detrimental to the amenity of those attending the various activities at the church and church hall and detrimental to local residents if car parking intensifies outside their homes.

While making this objection to the Order, the church would ask the Council to consider the following alternatives which could better achieve "improving the amenities of the area"

- Retain the current situation whereby parking is only restricted during the peak traffic times ("rush hour") of 8.00am – 9.30am and 4.30pm – 6.00pm. weekdays.
- To remove the bollards and associated paving outside the church in the two side roads – Woodland Street and Grove Street – to provide some additional on-street parking (not those paved areas further along the side streets which should be a matter for the residents of those streets).
- To provide some off-road parking to the Yarm Road frontage by a lay-by or possibly marking off an area of the wide pavement for parking – this would obviously retain parking to the front of the church but not on the main highway. The existing parking on Yarm Road at this point was marked out by the Council for parking when they installed the new road markings and crossing points etc. a few years ago.

It is regretted by the church that there was no direct consultation with them before the Order was drawn up, as we would have welcomed the opportunity to explain how the church functions and the extent to which we rely on the on street parking to the frontage and side streets.

We would be pleased to meet, on site, to discuss with Council representatives our objection to the Order and any alternatives which may better improve the amenities of the area. You may wish to telephone myself on 01642 644698 or e-mail at michael-lynette@hotmail.co.uk

Yours sincerely



Michael Leason

(on behalf of Yarm Road Methodist Church)

cc – Councillor Roy Rix and Councillor Mohammed Javed