

Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers' Association

Watching over the interests of Heald Green ward since 1927



Update from Cheadle Area Committee

17 June 2025

Police Update

- Parking issues - 59 fixed penalty offences have been issued in recent months, and there have been two arrests. One car was seized for no insurance; the police are looking to implement towing away to tackle the issue.
- Road safety and recent serious accidents on the A34 - it has been a bad month and year for road safety in Stockport, also for Greater Manchester. There has been a recent fatality on A34, and a life changing injury in another accident nearby.
- There have been three burglaries on the patch in recent weeks, which is low but still too many. Peak time for burglaries is between 6pm and 3am in the morning – usually to the rear of buildings. Burglars are looking for keys for high value cars. It has now become illegal to own equipment used for overriding car security systems, anyone possessing this will be arrested.
- The Neighbourhood Police team remains short staffed, and will do so for several months, student officers are moving in to support.
- Drug use and supply – two individuals have been arrested for supply, they may have their assets seized. Intelligence, particularly with cannabis farms, is really important.
- There are increased patrols in ASB hot spots. Off road bikes continue to cause issues, this has worsened in the last 18 months. The police don't pursue these because of the risk of accidents particularly for passers-by. Intelligence about where these bikes come from is crucial in tackling the problem.

Open Forum on Parking

This was attended by Jamie Birtles, Assistant Director for Strategic Infrastructure and Emma Stubbs, Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods

Cllr Stuart gave an overview of the issues:

- Inconsiderate parking is a problem across the ward, the borough and the country. We are very car dependent; our streets were not designed for this volume of traffic. However, this issue is particularly impacting Heald Green at the moment. There has been an uptick in people not respecting the rules, which is a huge frustration for

residents, and is endangering pedestrians and other drivers. Pavement parking is a particular concern.

- Councillors are using the ward highways budget to implement a number of measures, with extensive TROs in locations that are impacted, there's a plan to trial a one way system to Outwood Drive that will go out to consultation.
- We are seeing a lot of presence from Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) (traffic wardens) in the ward – as much capacity as the council can devote to be fair to all areas. There is a need for more traffic wardens – councillors pushed for that at the budget before last but there is no funding for this.
- The police too are out ticketing pavement parking in hotspot areas – any location where access is pedestrian access is blocked can be ticketed.
- Councillors arranged a multi-agency meeting about the issues near Jim's with senior officers and the police, with a number of actions following from the meeting.

Greenway Road

- A number of residents spoke on parking issues linked to Cheadle Muslim Association – it was suggested that the yellow lines have made a small improvement. However, they mentioned their concern regarding the additional numbers and reduced parking that they believe is caused by people praying outside, they think that the mosque is over capacity. They mentioned that the planning application that was approved stated that people would share cars and use bikes, which they believe hasn't happened. They state there are often there are over 100 cars parked on Greenway Road.
- They explained that the difference when officers are present is stark – it is much worse when they aren't. Residents spoke of members of the congregation parking on the cycle path and over the daffodils planted by residents, and a total lack of respect. They mentioned that the pavements are sinking, also that there's a need for consistent enforcement.
- One of the shop owners spoke of the frustration from failed deliveries, the difficulties from double parking and the whole street being blocked.
- A resident who has lived in the area for 46 years spoke of the difficulties friends and family have visiting him due to the parking and traffic management (from people directing traffic), and how members of the mosque's congregation have parked over people's drives.

Merwood Avenue

- A longstanding resident of Heald Green spoke of how the situation has got worse on Merwood Avenue due to the changing mix of shops on Wilmslow Road. There is little

enforcement of double yellow lines, they believe it is likely to get worse as the new housing developments will exacerbate this.

Finney Lane, by Jim's

- A resident spoke about how the CEOs need to stay later, after 7pm. He also raised concerns that he believes CEOs are not always enforcing where there is poor parking. Visitors to the take away are blocking the left hand lane of the junction. It is so bad that people turning into his drive have to wait outside the house, and stop in the middle of the road. He's had people threaten him, he suggests that CEOs need to be there 7-11 pm, and that the double yellow lines are there for people who follow the rules. Even the police have been seen to park on the kerb.

Finney Lane, opposite the main shops

- A resident spoke who has lived here 40 years, she is very concerned there will be a fatality, she believes it is a very dangerous situation. This is a busy road with buses, high school children, the parking is ridiculous. She explained that she could spend all day, every day, monitoring poor parking.
- Near 205 Finney Lane she frequently sees people drive up fast onto the pavement there, which is slightly narrower than other parts of Finney Lane. She's also observed the drives being blocked. The great fear is that someone will be hit, there is a need for bollards to be installed to protect people, if railings have been installed on the railway bridge, she believes it can be by 205 Finney Lane.
- She believes the regularity of the problem has really ramped up with changes in the business opposite, those businesses aren't engaging and aren't working with residents, especially when their customers are abusive to residents. When she asked to speak to the owner of Nafees she was told he wasn't there. She told the meeting that residents get lots of abuse when they challenge poor parking and their drives being blocked.
- She has a concern about the Outwood Drive proposals, that people will ignore them and nip the wrong way – and there will be more accidents.

St Ann's Road North

- A resident raised the issue of airport parking and a car that had be removed as it was blocking access to his property. At the Finney Lane end of the street he raised the issue of a car dealer, who has six or seven cars there at any time.
- He believes that the new hospice works have damaged the road and added to the problem, also he mentioned that he's aware of people parking on St Ann's Road who work on the business park adding to the problem. He believes that the future Gatley Golf Club development will likely worsen traffic there.

Response from officers:

- A driving licence is a privilege not a right, and not everyone chooses to abide by the rules, which is why we have restrictions on parking.
- With regard to the parking on Greenway Road and surrounding area the council enforcement officers will be in attendance on Fridays, there is a need to improve the situation so enforcement is not needed. The council is working closely with the mosque's leaders and they are in dialogue. There is a need to strike a balance between allowing successful community facilities to exist and the management of highways. There is a need to prioritise safety. Also, only highways officers, the police or qualified banksmen can direct traffic.
- With regard to local businesses we do have a growing population, do want businesses to be a success, but unfortunately that has consequences.
- Pavement parking is obstruction and that falls with the police to respond to. The government is debating a complete ban on pavement parking, which may lead to enforcement becoming the remit of the council. It is a very difficult for the police to enforce, it takes a lot of their time.
- With regard to Civil Enforcement Officers (traffic wardens) they are highly valued members of staff, there are 19 across the borough, with leave and training there are usually 14 on duty, which reduces to seven if double crewed. It is a difficult job, subject to abuse and assault. There is funding revenue but this doesn't cover the whole cost of an officer, turnover is very high and so there is continual recruitment. There are lots of regulations to observe, and they may have to wait a certain amount of time, there is lots of complexity in issuing tickets, they also have to put their safety first. If there are no lateral markings with double yellow lines the CEOs have to wait five minutes before issuing a ticket. Officers will take away the comments about CEOs working after 7.
- The police will look into the issue of their staff going to Jim's.
- On St Ann's Road there is the potential for more restrictions, but this may not be a popular option as it will restrict parking for residents.
- Dangerous and obstructive parking is a criminal offence, but it is a multi-agency problem as the police don't have the resources to enforce this, however it should be reported via 111. The council can seize vehicles, in some circumstances.

Cllr Stuart ended the section with comment that

- The council is doing everything it can, and we will continue to do so, we would like more funding for CEOs but we don't think that funding is likely to become available. It feels we need more external help to address these issues which are impacting our community so profoundly.

- There is proposed legislation that has not been implemented passing some of the responsibilities on pavement parking from the police to the council. This would help create a more joined up approach – we will ask our MP to progress this. The current government has committed to look at this in due course.
- We understand that our Metro Mayor, Andy Burnham, is looking to extend powers on yellow boxes and parking for red routes areas, we'd welcome this as we feel our community needs more help right now.

Relevant links:

[Pavement parking: options for change - GOV.UK](#)

[Pavement Parking - Hansard - UK Parliament](#)

[Managing pavement parking - GOV.UK](#)

[Andy Burnham wants major change in yellow box powers across Greater Manchester - Manchester Evening News](#)

Flooding update

- Jamie Birtles gave a verbal update, following the incidents on 1 January 2025. It is appreciated that residents are still coming to terms with the issues.
- There have been a series of successful engagement events.
- The Section 19 Report will be finished in October, it will go to scrutiny committee, it may go to relevant area committees if the Cabinet agrees.
- The damage to the highways from the floods will cost £4m to repair, the council will respond over time to this.
- There is anxiety regarding the gully cleaning programme. Roads are prioritised for every three years to or six months, depending on the degree of flood risk. This is being reviewed later in the year, priorities for cleaning may change following the New Year water run off events.
- The Environment Agency sets national priorities for prevention works. Stockport has had a relatively small number of properties impacted, unfortunately our area is low priority because the numbers impacted are low, particularly relative to coastal areas.
- The Cabinet approved investment in two new gully cleaners, the old ones were breaking down, so this has improved rate of cleaning. At present 20% of areas have to be revisited due to parked cars.
- Councillors asked for updates on Kilburn Close and Dame Hollow, for the latter drains have been cleaned and checked, no update on former. Jamie is confident the Bloor site foreman is putting in place adequate road cleaning measures, from his involvement.
- There is a limit to everything– New Year's Day was an extreme weather event.

Parking

- Charges for parking were noted – this was previously approval at council budget in 2024. Councillors raised concerns that charging for the Heald Green pub car park will have significant issues in the area. It will make the existing problems worse.
- It was asked an additional CEO could be funded? This was noted.

Brookfield Shiers Family Trust

- For the last year £29,500 was paid out, funds have decreased as it's not achieving capital growth. There is a £3,382 deficit, which is due to global events.
- No further applications will be accepted until it recovers.

Highways Representative

This continues as Cllr McCann, for Heald Green ward.