

# Improving car parking in Shandon

## A resident-led campaign for action

This flier has been written, printed, paid for and distributed by residents who live in Shandon\* who want to see steps taken to tackle parking pressures in the area.

We want everyone who lives here, whether they have access to a car or not, to feed in their views on how to improve parking. We have set out how to make your views known at the end.

For those who own cars it can be frustrating trying to find a space. But the problem impacts on everyone – not just car owners – because parking difficulties also affect access for emergency vehicles like ambulances or fire engines, as well as for deliveries or tradespeople doing work. Poor parking is an issue for road safety, for pedestrians and for people using wheelchairs or children's buggies. These pressures have increased over time. In the absence of action, they will continue to worsen.

So two years ago, as local residents, we started a campaign to address the problem. We flied every home and set up a petition on the need for change. That petition attracted over 300 signatures in a short period and was presented to the city council's Transport and Environment Committee.

The need for action was agreed by the council but it then became part of a much bigger citywide review of parking. That has taken quite a long time but, in June 2019, the latest batch of reports included Shandon (they are quite lengthy but you can see them on the council website under the Transport and Environment Committee for 20 June 2019). Shandon was assessed as having the third highest parking pressure, out of over 120 areas, in the *whole* city. As a result, the independent company carrying out the work recommended a controlled parking zone (CPZ) for Shandon.

## What happens now

Recognising the need for parking controls is only part of the story. Is that best done through extending the current zones on the edge of Shandon (ie S4 on Harrison Road or S3 at Spylaw Road etc) or a new zone? How can it best reflect the circumstances here? What other steps need to be taken to reduce unsafe or obstructive parking? How can we help reduce the overall volume of vehicles in the area?

That is why the city council has set up a drop-in session at Polwarth Church 4pm-7pm on Friday 1 November so residents can find out more about options and give views. There is also an online space for views at [www.pclconsult.co.uk/edinburghcpz](http://www.pclconsult.co.uk/edinburghcpz) which gives details of other events or write to the parking project team at the city council. The deadline for comments is 10 November 2019.

Above all, please make your views known. It's hard to get complete consensus about what is best to do. But doing nothing is worst of all. There is no system that can guarantee all residents a car parking space at or near their front door. Sheer numbers dictate that. But there *are* systems which *can* increase the *likelihood* of finding a space and also manage space and access more safely and effectively.

In areas where systems for prioritising residents' vehicles have been introduced they have been welcomed by residents after the event, even by those sceptical at the outset. They have also reduced pressures outside of controlled periods. We believe it is time to change in Shandon too.

***Remember: parking pressures are an issue for everyone, whether you own a vehicle or not. So please make your views known.***

***Shandon Parking Improvement Campaign, Autumn 2019***

[www.shandonparking.org.uk](http://www.shandonparking.org.uk) Facebook @shandonparking

\* *Shandon, for the purposes of this flier, is the area between Slateford Road and the canal and between Harrison Road and the railway to the west of Ashley Drive, Alderbank Terrace and Shandon Crescent.*