



Mr Warwick Hulme  
Rubicon Classic Enterprises Ltd  
193 Stowey Road  
Yatton  
Bristol  
BS49 4QU

**Reply to** Alan Berridge  
**Telephone** 0117 903 6946  
**E-mail** alan.berridge@bristol.gov.uk  
**Our ref** 110881/NP03/ACB  
**Date** 18 May 2011

Dear Mr Hulme,

**Parking congestion – The Downs**

I refer to your letter to the Lord Mayor dated 11 April 2011 regarding the above, which has been passed to the Traffic Management Team to respond.

Your comments regarding the parking situation that can develop in roads adjacent to the Downs during busier weekends are acknowledged, and I do understand and share your concerns.

For information, parking or movement restrictions can only be introduced on the public highway with the support of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). The TRO is the legal enactment that would define the nature and extent of the restrictions, and create the legal basis for enforcement. However, the process that must be followed to establish a TRO can take some time to complete, involving design and consultation, the public advertisement of the proposals and the resolution of any objections. Consequently, the funding for schemes of this nature must be identified on an approved work programme before they can be progressed.

As you may be aware, the City Council has devolved a number of its budgets to the 14 Community and Neighbourhood Partnerships now in place in Bristol, including the funding for minor traffic schemes. The Traffic Management Team will continue to design and implement the measures, but the Neighbourhood Partnerships are now responsible for prioritising the schemes that will be progressed within their respective areas.

The parking situation in Circular Road, Downleaze and Rockleaze has been considered by Henleaze, Stoke Bishop and Westbury-on-Trym Neighbourhood Partnership, but due to the large number of competing traffic issues in the area a scheme to address the problems that can be experienced, was not selected for inclusion in their 2011/12 local traffic schemes works programme. I regret, therefore, that it is not possible to progress a parking restriction scheme on roads around the parks at the present time, or to consider making Circular Road one way, as you suggest. This correspondence will be kept on file for future reference, and it is likely the Neighbourhood Partnership will reconsider this matter when they identify their local traffic scheme priorities for future work programmes.

If you would like further information regarding the Neighbourhood Partnerships, the following web link will provide you with some useful information:

[www.myneighbourhoodbristol.com](http://www.myneighbourhoodbristol.com)

I am sorry that I cannot be more positive at the present time, but trust this provides you with the information that you require. If you can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Alan Berridge  
Senior Area Engineer

c.c. Ruth Kenrick

**RUBICON CLASSIC ENTERPRISES LTD**  
**193 STOWEY ROAD, YATTON, BRISTOL BS49 4QU**

Company No. 06138026

**REGISTERED OFFICE**

227 LODGE CAUSEWAY  
FISHPONDS  
BRISTOL BS16 3QW

**CORRESPONDANCE ADDRESS**

193 STOWEY ROAD  
YATTON  
BRISTOL BS49 4QU  
**01934 830050**

[WARWICK.HULME@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:WARWICK.HULME@BTINTERNET.COM)

Lord Mayor

Councillor Colin Smith  
Chairman of the Downs Committee

11 April 2011

My Lord Mayor

I submitted last year a proposal to the Downs Committee for traffic changes to the roads layout of the Downs which was circulated to the members.

May I press for this to be considered by the relevant Council department at the Downs Committee's request as we experienced major difficulties this weekend, becoming stuck three times with oncoming traffic and badly parked (and not removed) cars and on the Sunday it was so bad we were unable to use that part of our registered route. This not only removes the "wow factor" from our route but also involves missing out 2 stops, with the as yet unknown problems with passengers wishing to rejoin the service.

Very many thanks  
Warwick Hulme



Managing Director  
Rubicon Classic Enterprises Ltd  
Operator of City Sightseeing Bristol.



**From:** Robert Westlake  
**To:** kenrick ruth  
**Date:** 15/06/2010 11:36  
**Subject:** Fwd: Parking on the Downs

>>> Robert Westlake 15/06/2010 11:07 >>>

Dear Mr Hulme,

Your email earlier this year regarding parking problems on the Downs has been passed to me for comment. First may I apologise for the delay in responding, your email was with someone else before arriving here at the Downs

I hope that things have settled down more recently. The weekends that you referred to in your email were exceptional in that first we had unseasonably good weather and lots of visitors, the football season had been extended due to games cancelled earlier in the year, hence cars parked by players, the effect of the wheel clamping scheme keeping drivers off the grass and I believe on one of the weekends the Fundrworld event was taking place, an unfortunate combination that exacerbated the scale of the problem on these occasions.

The whole issue of traffic flow around the Downs, particularly along Stoke Road is an acknowledged problem for many others including First Bus and something hopefully that can be resolved. I understand that there are plans to start improvements in this area shortly as part of the improvements to the top of Blackboy Hill and is likely to include a bus lane and double yellow lines to restrict parking. As to other area's you mentioned, Circular Road, Rockleaze and Downleaze and your suggestion of further restrictions and a one way system has I believe merit but the decision to implement a scheme along the lines you suggest would need to be one for the traffic section of the City Council rather than the Parks who have no jurisdiction over highways. If you are interested in pursuing your idea for improving traffic flow around the Downs please let me know and I will locate the correct officer in the Council and see how best it might be taken forward.

Kind Regards

Robert Westlake  
Downs Ranger



AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

**From:** "warwick hulme" <warwick.hulme@btinternet.com>  
**To:** <COLIN.SMITH@BRISTOL.GOV.UK>  
**Date:** 03/06/2010 10:08  
**Subject:** Fw: PARKING ON THE DOWNS DURING BUSY DAYS

-----Original Message-----

From: "warwick hulme" <warwick.hulme@btinternet.com>  
To: Christopher (Deputy Lord Mayor) Davies  
<christopher.davies@bristol.gov.uk>  
To: <peter.abrahams@bristol.gov.uk>  
To: <barbara.jankes@bristol.gov.uk>  
Cc: trevor smallwood <t.smallwood1@btinternet.com>

Sent: 26/05/2010 20:30:59  
Subject: Fw: PARKING ON THE DOWNS DURING BUSY DAYS

To  
LORD MAYOR, Coin Smith  
Councillor peter abrahams  
Councillor Barbara jankes  
Councillor Christopher Davies

I resend a copy of an e-mail sent back in April regarding the problems we are having with the popularity of the Downs, which we are all in favour of, when the weather is fine and hot.

This last weekend May 22/3, we experienced yet more problems with our buses getting stuck and I request that my suggestion below be raised at the next Downs Committee meeting on July 5th please.

My drivers, including myself, saw that the parking enforcement force were out over the weekend but it is our view that they are very ineffective and were concentrating on just a few offenders, mainly around the Sea Walls area and appeared to ignore any other cars/bar-b-q's etc away from the road edge. The whole of Ladies Mile was littered with cars on the grass and we did not see any notices placed on these and some in particular they were there for most of the day. We can understand these being there as the notices with the parking restrictions are hardly noticeable and as one starts others follow.

I look forward to a reply.  
Many regards

Warwick Hulme

----- Original Message -----

From: warwick hulme  
To: bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk  
Cc: Christopher Davies ; barbara.jankes@bristol.gov.uk  
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 7:05 PM  
Subject: PARKING ON THE DOWNS DURING BUSY DAYS

Hi  
From CITY SIGHTSEEING BRISTOL  
I am sure that you are fully aware of the major parking and subsequent traffic problems on the Downs over the previous two weekends due to the very sunny weather and the football player's cars.  
My buses were stuck trying to battle against oncoming traffic in what

effectively became a one car-wide roadway seriously delaying our timetabled scheduled service and we can be heavily fined for not adhering to our published timetable. It also had a detrimental effect on the number of passengers we took and disappointing a lot of potential people who wished to travel with us who would have used us but could not as we were not running to time.

One car driver got so aggrieved that he "barged" his way past one of the buses and severely scratched his car and I had a couple of altercations with angry drivers.

I am sure First Group Buses also greatly suffered.

The section of road from Stoke Road to Ivywell Road was where the main problems existed as traffic piled on down from Stoke Rd and could not see that they had nowhere to go but Stoke Rd was also its usual Saturday afternoon nightmare with the football player's cars parked both sides.

May I make a number of suggestions

- a) put parking restriction on one side of Rockleaze and Downleaze and perhaps also Circular Rd
- b) make Circular Rd one way clockwise

These restrictions to be in place only at weekends between April and September.

We have called the police out on previous occasions but they have proved to be handicapped by the fact that the cars are legally parked and would not accept my legally proved argument that whilst this is so they are causing an obstruction to a scheduled bus service and as a result can be removed.

I would appreciate your views and would be delighted to discuss this in person.

Cc Lord Mayor  
Cc Leader of the Council

Regards

Warwick Hulme  
Managing Director  
Rubicon Classic Enterprises Limited  
193 Stowey Road  
Yatton, Bristol, BS49 4QU

Registered Office: 227 Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 3QW  
Registered No: 06138026

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