

Parking on Marine Road

Originally living further into Morecambe I never realised the problem parking on the promenade caused. When I moved to live in a ground floor flat July 2021, I not only saw the problem but experienced the nastiness of some of these motor home owners. One of whom's actions we had to take advice on from the police just recently.

My neighbour and I originally started the petition because we are disabled, live in ground floor flats spending long periods at home, and right through the summer we had to endure a 'white wall' of motorhomes and the disrespect of owners which was getting us down which caused anxiety, not good for our mental well-being.

A good number of these owners are disrespectful, parking their big fancy caravans for days on end, putting very little by way of income into the local economy. (from what we see they bring supplies with them), enjoying the views across the bay **free** on a regular basis.

This is something we residents pay a high price for, in both property cost, council tax and maintenance charges, as well as supporting the local economy, spending our pensions in the town all year round.

Owners leave litter and expel their effluent down the clear water drains which go directly on to the beach. (Email 1/08/2022 council reference 309391 refers) Unfortunately this wasn't an isolated episode but the problem is that by the time environment department can get to pick up on the problem, the vehicle has left.

Currently there are six motor homes that have been 'parked closed up' on the promenade most of the summer (and now probably for the winter too) between the junction of Broadway and Princess Crescent. They are not here on holiday, the owners are using this area as their own personal permanent carpark. Something that surely must impact on their insurance.

This is where the council are losing out on much needed revenue, there are a number of carparks, with amenities close by, which already have drains carrying sewerage. At the very least, with very little expense, a few of these carparks could allow overnight parking with a set number identified for motor homes and a drain coloured to identify sewerage disposal. These are established carparks and not standing sites from which the council could draw some of this much needed revenue.

People who live along this section of Marine Road, from Lord Street down to Happy Mount Park, along with their friends and family plus Visitors to the town- (paying good money to stay in hotels and guest houses, only to have their enjoyment of the views of the bay curtailed by inconsiderate campers) - are the very people who support and have signed this petition, in essence the people directly affected by wild camping.

The petition was posted on both council and county websites because it called for both councils to work together to find a solution for local people who are most affected by this issue.

These plus the manual signatures collected have been sent to the county council in support of the TRO proposed by head of highways, Cllr Charlie Edwards earlier this summer. It is hoped this will go through consultation and be in place for summer 2023.

Now we need our city council to stand up for us and do their bit. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of putting our case to you today.

Susanne Smith