

9 December 2020

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Dear Resident,

Community Parking and Access Proposal for Gillies Street, Fairfield

I am writing to invite your feedback on a proposal to help manage on-street parking and access in Gillies Street, Fairfield between the railway line and Heidelberg Road.

After receiving a community request, Council started an investigation into what the best on-street parking arrangements are for Gillies St.

We recently wrote to you and other residents in Gillies Street, asking you about your carparking challenges, needs and ideas. Thank you to everyone who got in touch or sent in surveys.

What have we found?

It's clear that there is parking pressure in the street. Feedback from residents shows this and Council's data also demonstrates this - on average on weekdays about 1 in 10 parking spaces is free (12%). About 1 in 5 (20%) were free on Saturdays.

There was strong agreement that parking is a challenge, but feedback showed a mix of views on the solution. Some people want more restrictions and some want no change. Some people have specific needs. A full summary of feedback is attached to this letter.

Council is proposing a change to reduce parking pressure

To help make parking easier for residents, Council is proposing that unrestricted parking on the Eastern side of the road would change to 2P during the day. A map is shown overleaf.

This would prevent long stay commuters parking on the Eastern side of the street. Therefore it would also reduce parking pressure overall in the street because some residents that are eligible for permits would start to use the East side - easing pressure on the West.

We are also proposing to:

- keep the unrestricted parking on the Western side at all times, and
- for all areas to continue to be unrestricted overnight from 6pm to 8am.
- Keep existing restricted areas the same.

Residents can also help

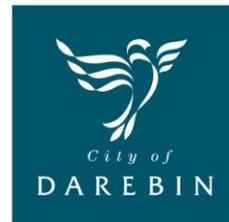
Parking is a challenge for everyone and there are things residents and businesses can do to help:

- park on your own property when you can,
- take care to avoid blocking driveways when parking, and
- if you have a spare on-site carpark, consider offering it to a local worker or neighbour
- consider if cycling, public transport, or carshare could reduce the cars in your household

Let us know what you think

Your feedback on this proposed parking change is very important to Council. We would also appreciate you discussing this letter with your neighbours when you see them and encouraging them to provide us with feedback.

Please provide your feedback to us by 15 January 2020. We would prefer that you send feedback by email at allan.middlemast@darebin.vic.gov.au. We are also happy to speak, and to arrange someone to speak to you in your language if you would prefer.



Darebin City Council
ABN 75 815 980 522

Postal Address

PO Box 91
Preston VIC 3072
T 03 8470 8888
F 03 8470 8877
darebin.vic.gov.au



National Relay Service
relayservice.gov.au

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.



Speak your language
T 03 8470 8470

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Español

اردو
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When the consultation period is finished we will consider all feedback and decide whether to proceed with the proposed change, or whether to adjust it.

We'll let you know the final decision and advise when any changes will be made.

A flyer, outlining Darebin's parking change request process, is included with this letter. We are currently at step three.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Middlemast', with a circular flourish at the end.

Allan Middlemast
Coordinator Transport Engineering
Climate Emergency and Sustainable Transport
Allan.Middlemast@darebin.vic.gov.au
T 03 8470 8436

Gillies Street Fairfield (Railway line to Heidelberg Road) - proposed parking plan

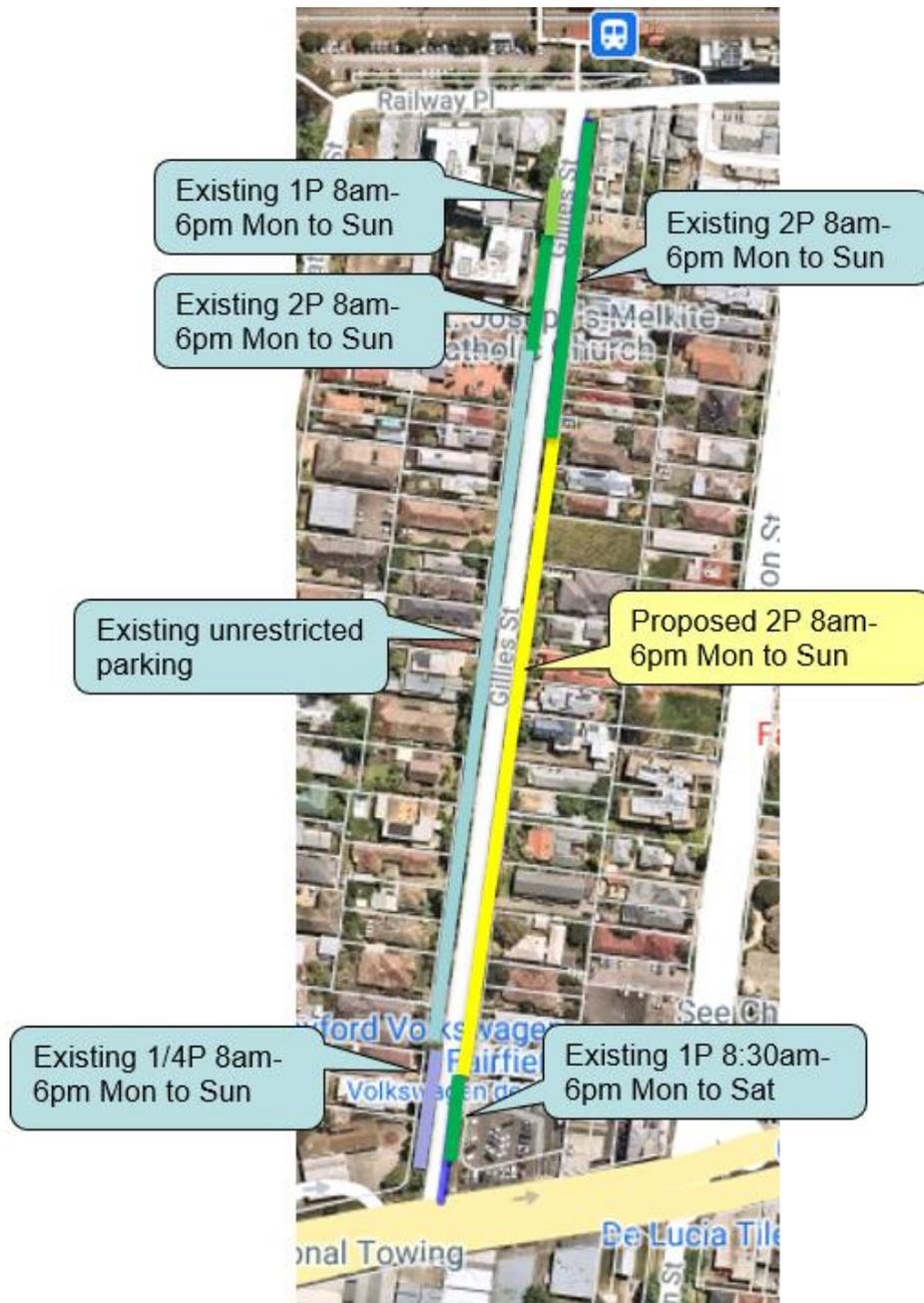
In off peak times all areas would remain unrestricted (between 6pm and 8am).

During peak times there would be a mix of unrestricted and restricted areas on Gillies Street.

- The main change would be on the East side of Gillies Street - the currently unrestricted area would change to 2P during the day.
- Other areas that are currently restricted would stay as they currently are.

This change would improve access for residents and their visitors because fewer long stay commuters would use the street. This proposal would also make it easier for Carers to attend – a disabled parking permit can be used to park for double the amount of time shown on a parking sign.

A map showing the proposal follows:



Attachment - detailed summary of community feedback

What we heard from you

On 2 July 2020, we sent all properties in Gillies Street a survey, asking for residents' feedback on car parking. Just over 1 in 5 (20%) households responded, and many people included comments about parking, which were very helpful.

Common feedback

Most residents that responded in the survey indicated that there are current challenges:

- People drive to Gillies Street and then park their car to use public transport, so there is nowhere for me to park
- There never seems to be any available parking spaces in my street
- My visitors say they can never find a space to park.

Detailed and diverse comments

Comments highlighted that different people have different needs and views. Some people said they don't want change, while others find the current situation difficult. Comments include:

Safety

- Public safety needs to be considered if visitors are made to park further away
- Parking on Sundays when there is high demand can sometimes lead to unsafe parking

Things that make access difficult

- There are lots of trade vehicles parking in Gillies Street
- Enforcement of parking controls is required
- Equipment is being used to reserve parking spaces in some areas
- Sometimes people park very close to or across my driveway which limits my access
- Sometimes the way people park reduces the available spaces for the rest of us
- I need somewhere for my carer to park when they visit my property.

Restrictions and permits

- I do not want restrictions in the street as it's not fair and it will reduce the value of my property
- Equality should be applied to all residents, regarding the cost of permits
- I do not want to, or I cannot afford to pay for a permit
- A mixture of restrictions and unrestricted spaces would be nice so visitors can come over without hassle

Apartments

- Parking spaces should be provided as part of developments
- I live in an apartment so I park in the underground garage
- Residents of apartments leave their cars on the street
- More apartments being constructed near my home means more people trying to park on the street