

Correspondence received regarding parking and traffic during the summer season 2023

The following is a summary of written comments received throughout the summer as written correspondence. Parking is also a regular topic of conversation for people who visit the Council office, and parking poses a challenge in our Development Bylaw.

Received July 31, 2023

One hates to complain - the season is short.

But this afternoon I was all but run over on the corner of Main/Richards Cafe.

A large vehicle was turning , I was walking at the very edge of the road. No care was taken by the driver who mounted the grass verge.

An accident is sure to happen. Must we wait for a tragedy?

Not a good image for tourists.

Received July 18, 2023

My concern today is with the safety of both traffic and pedestrians at the intersection of Main and Howard Streets. I think it is fair to say that this is, at times, the busiest intersection in the village.

There are two stop signs and eight property locations at this corner where traffic signage could be placed. For some reason - for the last two years at least - there are no signs in front of, across from, or adjacent to the Landmark Oyster House. Cars regularly park such that it can be very difficult and dangerous to see pedestrians or autos when approaching from either Main or Howard Streets. Offending parking in all these locations includes customers, delivery vehicles, and employees of the Landmark.

When I was looking after the water system and Ian Dennison was mayor, signs were ordered from the Highways Department, including a 'no parking here to corner' sign earmarked specifically for the Howard Street side of the Landmark. For the last two summers this has not been placed where targeted, even though the business has been operated by a recent member of council. This sign has been, for some reason, the only parking sign on the north side of Bardin Street - directly across from the parking lot of what was, until recently, the Orient Hotel.

I feel that the issues of parking and safety seem to be forgotten once the parking signs have been put up and the tourists have arrived. Is there not a councilor who is responsible for parking and road safety year-round? Should there not be the occasional 'walkabout' by council?

I hope this matter will be given some immediate consideration rather than waiting for a future council meeting.

Received June 22, 2023

Now that summer is starting to get into full swing, I am wondering if I could make a request for some no parking signs. I am at... Corner of Bardin and Main. Every year (including this one) I see people parking right onto the corner. This creates a dangerous situation for pedestrians and reduces sight lines.

In the past I have had a no-parking sign on both the West side of Main and the South Side of Barding (on either corner) to discourage this. However, this year I have neither. I am wondering if it might be possible to have these reinstated.

Received June 5

Sorry to bother you with this parking issue.

There were no parking signs at 29 and 27 main st. Across from me 30 main st. Which was fine. But they have been removed and this weekend there was parking on both sides of Main Street. With only one way traffic between the cars, this could prove a problem if emergency vehicles need to get through.

Received May 27

On another note - over the last two weeks I've had a no parking sign placed on my property on Main Street and the a week later the sign was removed.

No parking signs are across the street from Bardin down to the waterfront on Main st. On my side of the street it is intermittent - signs removed at the top of the street and there is one on the property beside the community centre and then down across the street from Richard's.

There is a random no parking sign on Russell St.

What is the no parking policy as I cannot figure it out. If you ask for one can you get one - if so I would like one.

Future food for thought - there is no reason why parking on Main St could not alternate from side to side annually. I try to maintain my property and I end up with people parking on my lawn / walking on my lawn and parking in front of my driveway.

I garner no benefit from the increased activity in the village (restaurants/artisan shops)

I look forward to your response.

Comments from CAO:

- The town does not have a formal parking policy. The current situation is more the result of informal evolution of practices.
- The Fire Department volunteers place signs in May, and remove them at the end of the season, based on their personal knowledge of the village rather than a written plan for their locations. However, this has resulted in inconsistency of placement.
- The signs are often mysteriously moved and relocated during the season. The village has no bylaw that could support parking enforcement.
 - It is unreasonable to expect Fire Department volunteers to monitor their location throughout the season.
 - Our summer maintenance staffers could take on the responsibility of monitoring and fixing the location of signs, if we had a documented parking plan to which they could refer.
- From discussion with both residents and Council, I know that this is something that a great many people would like to see more clear decisions about, so that the tourist influx every summer doesn't degrade quality of life for residents.
- At a previous Council meeting in 2023, we discussed the idea of pedestrianizing the central core streets for the summer season, and there was support, though more research is needed about how to make it happen.

- I have requested a meeting with the provincial dept of transportation and infrastructure - they have not responded yet.
- There are provincial laws and regulations on roads, and limits on what Victoria as a municipality has the legal authority to do.
- We also have a limited budget available for investing in capital projects like parking lots, but I believe with the annual CCBF funding, potentially supported by an Active Transportation Fund application, Victoria could develop a parking lot, pedestrianize the central core, and establish a safe bicycle network, in the coming 1-3 years.