

Parking permits plan thrown out

A controversial plan for a residents' parking scheme has been thrown out.

Leicester City Council had been considering asking people to buy permits to park outside their homes in Clarendon Park after years of problems with congested streets.

However, after a public consultation - which one councillor said cost taxpayers £10,000 - the plan was dropped.

At a community meeting last week, many residents and traders clapped and cheered, but some said they were disappointed the parking problems had not been solved.

Castle ward councillor Patrick Kitterick said: "The single biggest issue when we talk to people in the area is parking.

"We are not about to put up a multi-storey car park in Clarendon Park so the only option is a residents parking scheme.

"As far as we can see, the issue has been resolved for the near

by JENNY OUSBNEY

future, although we could see there are a number of people who were interested in the scheme.

"Due to the way the streets voted it was very hard to construct a large enough area, say six or more streets, where we could have introduced the scheme on a smaller basis."

However, some people at the meeting expressed concern over the way the survey was conducted, saying not all houses had received leaflets.

Geoff Hurd of Howard Road, called for a compromise.

He said: "It seems to me there are what you would call different categories, so the businesses on Queens Road are different to visitors who come into the area.

"If we could come out of this 'all or nothing' view then I think it would satisfy a larger number of people."

Knighton ward Councillor Ross Grant attended the meeting. He did not want the scheme

to go ahead, saying it would have meant 60 per cent of the Queens Road shops would have faced closure or relocation because of it.

Businesses had previously urged people to drop the plans.

Peter Murphy, who runs Charlie's Pine, in Montague Road, told the Mercury last month: "This is the last thing we need in an economic downturn."

Butcher Sean Jeynes, who owns W Archer and Son, in Queens Road, said: "Unless there was a car park, there would not be enough provision for customers."

In all, 42 per cent of residents voted in favour of the scheme, compared with 58 per cent against, from a response rate of 22 per cent. The council did not give numbers of how many people had voted.

People would have been charged £25 a year for the permit, which would have been valid 24 hours a day, seven days a week.