



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

By Email

Mr Andy Waddell
Head of Infrastructure and Environment
Land and Environmental Services
Exchange House
231 George Street
Glasgow
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Friday, 1 June 2018

Our reference: JM/AM

Dear Mr Waddell

Celtic Park and Emirates Arena – Proposed Event Day Parking Scheme

I wanted to write and express my broad support for the parking proposals but also to raise some related matters.

Therefore, in the first place, I do want to express my strong support for these proposals. I have had numerous complaints from residents whose life has been made a misery on match days by inconsiderate parking at and near their homes. In some cases, residents are effectively trapped in their homes because their driveways have been blocked. In other cases, it is clear that a fire engine or other emergency vehicle could not enter certain streets and again this is a cause of concern and stress for local residents. Therefore, I absolutely agree that action such as this needs to be taken.

On the question of the actual boundaries of the zone, I am broadly supportive of these. I have reviewed them and they appear reasonable including the main areas where I have had complaints. Obviously there is the possibility that parking just beyond the zone boundaries will become worse and, therefore, I would urge the council to keep the boundaries of the zone under review once it has been in operation for a year or so.

The question of residents' visitor parking permits has been raised with me and how strictly these will be controlled. It might well be a temptation to some residents to take up their full allocation of permits and then sell them to visiting football fans. I am not sure how easy that would be to supervise or control.

I have also had representations from some football fans, especially Celtic supporters who need to bring their car or feel they need to bring their car to the games. In many cases these people will be able to park further away and walk. However, there are a number of valid points in relation to this:

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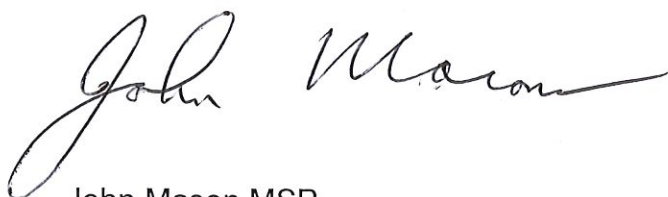
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1. What happens for a fan who does not have a blue badge but can only walk 5 or 10 minutes and could not walk from the outside of the parking zone? Can some provision be made for them?
2. Is there a need for increased parking on the existing car parks, some of which are owned by Celtic FC, as I understand it? For example, should multi-storey car parks be considered by Celtic FC in order to provide more parking on the site and this would obviously help disabled and partially disabled supporters as well.
3. Celtic and others have raised the question of more public transport and I wonder what interaction there is between the Club, the City Council, First Bus (for the buses) and Abellio ScotRail (for the trains). It does seem to me that there should be consideration given to increased buses and trains on the days of matches to reflect demand.
4. I would reiterate my suggestion that we should strongly support a new railway station at Parkhead Forge probably where the railway line crosses Duke Street on the way to Airdrie. This would serve both football fans and a wider range of the public who use Parkhead Forge for shopping and students who attend the nearby Kelvin College. This would also give direct rail links to Edinburgh which is not possible at present using Dalmarnock Station.
5. The suggestion has been made that Celtic FC themselves put on special buses either specifically for disabled fans or fans in general, which could then link into the major transport hubs in the city centre. This is obviously related to the previous point about First Bus and the level of any extra buses required.
6. While supporting stricter parking controls within the zone, I wonder if other controls could be relaxed, e.g. in Bell Street and Hunter Street where double yellow lines are not required.

This clearly is a highly contentious issue and I have had many representations about it from both residents and football supporters. However, I remain of the view that the present situation cannot continue as it is completely unacceptable for local residents to have to go through what they do on a regular basis.

Many thanks for taking these points on board.

Yours sincerely



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