

## Q&A briefing to Stoke Bishop Forum Meeting

### **What are we doing to persuade students not to bring their cars to University?**

Before students arrive, our accommodation team strongly encourages them not to bring their cars onto the campus or to the residences. Each residence reinforces this message and provides students with details of local transport options.

We actively discourage students from driving both to their place of study and their term-time accommodation. This is demonstrated in the University's Combined Staff and Student Travel Plan and the University's Sustainability Policy and communicated through all official pre- and post-arrival student publications as well as through face-to-face communications throughout the year. The University has a very robust parking policy that does not permit students to park on the University Precinct, unless they have a disability and have been granted the appropriate permit. Parking spaces at the Halls of Residences are limited and are awarded on the basis of need.

The University is also investing in additional facilities and initiatives to support alternative forms of travel. This includes (amongst others) cycle/motorcycle parking, free bicycle clinics, discounted locks and lights, discounted bicycle maintenance sessions, free bicycle training, discounted bus tickets, and free bicycle and walking buddy schemes. We also provide a student bus service (operated by Wessex Bus), that helps students living in University allocated accommodation free travel on the Service 16 bus during term time.

### **How do we regulate student parking?**

All students must have a permit to park on the Stoke Bishop campus. This is only granted if certain criteria are met. This discourages students from bringing their cars, unless it is absolutely essential. As part of the permit application process, we ask the car registration number which we will keep on record for year (even if the application is declined). This helps us to identify vehicles. We have no way, however, of identifying cars that have been brought to the University without a parking permit application, in spite of the guidance that we provide.

### **Do we have a list of students who own cars and will we take disciplinary action against them if they do not park considerately?**

We have a list of students with permits to park. If we find them parking inconsiderately we can trace them and speak to them about the impact this has on the local community. There are some students who bring their cars and do not apply for permits. We have no way of knowing who these students are and the DVLA will not allow us to identify the owners from their number plates.

### **Are we making sure that students are parking legally and respecting the needs of local residents?**

We do all we can through induction and local information at each of the residences to encourage students to be good neighbours and be sensitive to the needs of the local community.

### **What was the outcome of the Hiatt Baker Planning Permission and related parking reviews?**

We have fulfilled our obligations to review parking as required by the Hiatt Baker planning permission. We considered the wishes of the local residents to introduce parking charges to discourage students and staff from parking. As a result, we introduced permits for the

2015/16 academic year, to ensure unauthorised cars could be identified if parked on University property.

The final survey report by Key Transport Consultants Ltd is available to the public. It can be viewed via the following link <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/estates/projects/stoke-bishop/>. The 'parking restrictions options analysis', promised by the University of Bristol at the meeting in September 2015 (minutes of this and the July meeting are also available via the above link) has now been completed to allow residents to take forward their preferred options with Bristol City Council. For clarity we are under no obligation to conduct further reviews of parking around Hiatt Baker Hall and have not agreed to fund the introduction of a preferred parking scheme on any of the surrounding roads of the Stoke Bishop campus.

### **What are the student parking permit arrangements for Hiatt Baker Hall car park?**

Students who meet set criteria for requiring the use of a car for work/study/personal reasons are able to apply for a parking permit. We charge £99 a year, which works out at less than £2 per week. In addition, we will look at flexible payment arrangements or discounted rates for students who might have problems paying that amount.

Students can apply for parking permits at Hiatt Baker Hall at any time. If they meet the criteria and there is space available, permits will be issued.

### **Are the parking spaces on the Stoke Bishop campus well used?**

We ran a survey to review and identify unused car parking spaces across the residences to make sure that all spaces are used effectively. We will continue to monitor the situation. It is important to note that parking spaces are used by staff as well as students. Parking spaces can be close to capacity during the working week.

### **What are we doing about cars parked on the public highway?**

We cannot take any action over cars that are parked legally on the public highway. The DVLA will not provide universities with ownership details of these vehicles, and so there is no way for us to identify the owners (unless they are permit holders who have nevertheless decided to park on the highway). If parked vehicles are causing an obstruction or nuisance, or where illegal parking takes place, residents should contact the police or the Council for enforcement.

We recommend that the residents of the roads surrounding Hiatt Baker Hall approach the Council directly to request traffic/parking restrictions where they feel it would be of benefit to the neighbourhood. The above referenced options analysis should help with this process.

The University recognises the wishes of some local residents that students do not park on the roads surrounding the Stoke Bishop campus. The University must operate within the law (including the Housing and Road Traffic Acts) and recognise the rights of both local residents and students. The University is exploring whether its disciplinary regulations can support an amendment that will underpin the following statement: 'The University recommends students do not bring a motorised vehicle to Bristol, unless absolutely necessary. If the University is made aware by an enforcement agency that a student is using a vehicle on the public highway that is not roadworthy, is not properly taxed or insured and/or is being parked or driven in a manner that could cause damage or injury to others, action may be taken under the student disciplinary regulations'.

### **What do Oxford, Cambridge and Bournemouth universities do to prevent students from bringing cars into their cities?**

Oxford and Cambridge are not comparable to Bristol. Both cities are relatively small and have very strict controls over car parking city-wide. Our legal advice suggests that any measures banning student cars are not enforceable but they may operate more successfully within the context of stringent city-wide restrictions.

Bournemouth has a parking permit system for its Talbot campus, but we are not aware that there is any university restriction on students bringing cars into the city.

Bristol does not have the same degree of city-wide parking restrictions. In Stoke Bishop there are currently no restrictions at all. We would not have the legal ability to enforce a general ban on students bringing cars into Bristol, even though we strongly discourage them from doing so. Nor are we able to identify student owners of cars if they are brought to the University against our advice.

### **What else are we doing to reduce car usage amongst students?**

One of our main aims is to get the University community to consider alternative travel options to the car. It is important that we reduce our transport impact whilst making sure that staff can get to work on time and students attend lectures. We are doing this by:

- Providing a Transport Hub at the Stoke Bishop halls of residence with buses running between the halls and the University. This includes the No.16 bus which operates during term-time.
- Providing a No.16 night bus running from the Stoke Bishop halls of residence to the Triangle.
- Providing public transport interest-free loan season tickets for staff, and discounts on buses for staff and students.
- Introducing a new parking policy.
- Setting up a bespoke car-sharing scheme.
- Introducing a cycle-to-work scheme in which staff can purchase a bike and accessories.
- Providing a bi-weekly free cycle-surgery for staff/student bike maintenance and repairs.
- Providing more cycle and motorcycle parking.
- Promoting the City's five park and ride schemes.