

# Dalston Traffic and Parking Questionnaire 2007

The total number of returned questionnaires was **340** exactly, of which **317** were from households and **23** were from businesses. This was a 27% and 38% response respectively.

The following highlights should be noted:

## HOUSEHOLDS

1. 71.5% of respondents thought that there was a safety problem in the Square.
2. 57.1% of respondents actually park in the Square during the week with the vast majority parking for less than 15 minutes to do their shopping. Much smaller numbers responded to the other breakdowns in Q4.
3. Of those that park in the Square, 84.1% reported difficulty in always finding a space.
4. 79.7% feel that some form of parking control is required in the Square and 80.3% want daytime time-limited parking with some form of area demarcation.
5. 76.3% of respondents do use the Glave Hill car park (many wrote on their papers that they often had difficulty finding a space).
6. 78.5% of household respondents feel that the Parish Council needs to take the initiative and provide additional off-road parking. Given that the number of offered locations was only down the Kingsway and along the Green, 79.1% opted for some sort of car parking down the Kingsway (46% in car park on left and 33.1% on a strip of grasscrete down the left side). However, both in comments and written alongside this question, a significant number mentioned the land at the top of the Show field.
7. Q11 asked about funding from the precept and 54.4% of respondents were negative about this although 78.5% had already opted for a PC funded off-road parking option in Q9.
8. 71.2% of respondents were against charging for parking in the Square while the majority of respondents to Q13 opted for a short stay free option (47.4%).
9. 52.6% were not in favour of the attentions of a traffic warden, but did not indicate anywhere how they would propose controlling the 2 hour time limited Square parking.
10. 88.5% were totally against the concept of park and ride in the Square and some of the additional comments written on the paper seemed to indicate that they felt that Square workers should park at Glave Hill (although there were some vociferous exceptions to this).
11. 67.4% responded favourably to the question about some sort of Square regeneration scheme.
12. 85.3% of respondents favour a 20mph limit in Dalston with 75.5% of respondents to Q18 opting for the garage to after Caldew School preference.
13. Q19 asked where there were additional parking problems in Dalston – 132 wrote comments which are accurately recorded elsewhere. 22.7% of these respondents specifically mentioned congestion emanating from the Ben Hodgson garage business.
14. However, by far and away the main issue, other than the Square, are the parking problems around both schools in the morning and afternoon. This came up time and again in comment.

## BUSINESSES

1. 59.1% of respondents thought that there was a safety problem in the Square.
2. 15 of the 23 respondents admitted to parking their vehicles (10 of whom for more than 2 hours a day) in the Square during the working week.
3. 77.3% find that they cannot always find a place to park in the Square, but 60.9% do use the Glave Hill car park.
4. 57.1% feel that parking controls of some kind are required in the Square and 65.2% would support time limited parking and designated area marking.

5. 68.2% feel that the Parish Council should be considering the provision of an additional car park and the majority favour a strip of grasscrete down the Kingsway.
6. 68.2% of respondents didn't think it should be funded by the precept. 65.2% were against charging for Square parking (probably the same 15 that park there during the day).
7. 52.2% were against the traffic warden idea, but 60.9% favour some form of Square regeneration.
8. 86.4% of respondents favour a 20mph limit through the Square with the vast majority (75%) favouring the garage to after Caldew School option.
9. Only 1 business respondent mentioned the Ben Hodgson business, the remainder highlighting the problem around the schools.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Quite clearly this questionnaire was worthwhile. There should have been something about the geographical location of respondents, but from the way the questionnaire was answered, it would seem that the majority of household respondents came from within Dalston village.
2. From the questionnaire the Parish Council can take the following:
  - a. People think that there is a safety and parking problem in the middle of Dalston.
  - b. They think that the Parish Council should try and do something about it and seem to favour the provision of time-limited parking in the Square as well as another off-road parking area, probably down the Kingsway.
  - c. There is support for a regeneration scheme of some sort in the Square which should include demarcation of areas for pedestrians and specific activities, especially the bus stop.
  - d. There is strong Dalston Parish support for a 20mph limit through the Square area running from the garage to after Caldew School. Quite a few favour making the existing crossing into a pelican variety with traffic lights.
  - e. There is great concern about unreasonable parking around the schools in the morning and afternoon, with many concerned about the impossibility of getting a fire engine or ambulance into the Nine Rigg/Smithfield areas due to the complete lack of consideration by people collecting children.
  - f. A considerable number of respondents requested disabled parking spaces in the Square.