

Parking stress in Highgate

A note by Simon Briscoe, February 2016

The Plan talks much about parking pressures in Highgate. Such “pressure” is poorly defined and complex in nature yet it is felt by residents and visitors alike. It is impossible to measure an ill-defined concept with precision yet to understand the situation we did conduct a survey. It should be seen as giving a broad picture of parking on one night and one afternoon. This does not claim to have measured every parking bay on every street but the trends are clear and the maps give a firm foundation upon which to discuss broad options.

What is shown on the maps of the main roads in the Highgate Forum area?

- **Black lines** indicate where public parking is not possible - mostly private roads. It also covers (on the day map) full-day CPZ zones (eg Priory Gardens) and roads where no or minimal parking is possible (like the red route of Archway Road and stretches of double yellow lines).
- **Red lines** indicate where parking is possible but no spaces were found.
- **Yellow/orange** indicates minimal parking – just the odd space, less than 10% availability. Spaces which are often filled soon after being vacated.
- **Green** indicates plenty of parking, taken to mean at least a third of the spaces available. You have a good chance of parking outside or very close to your destination.

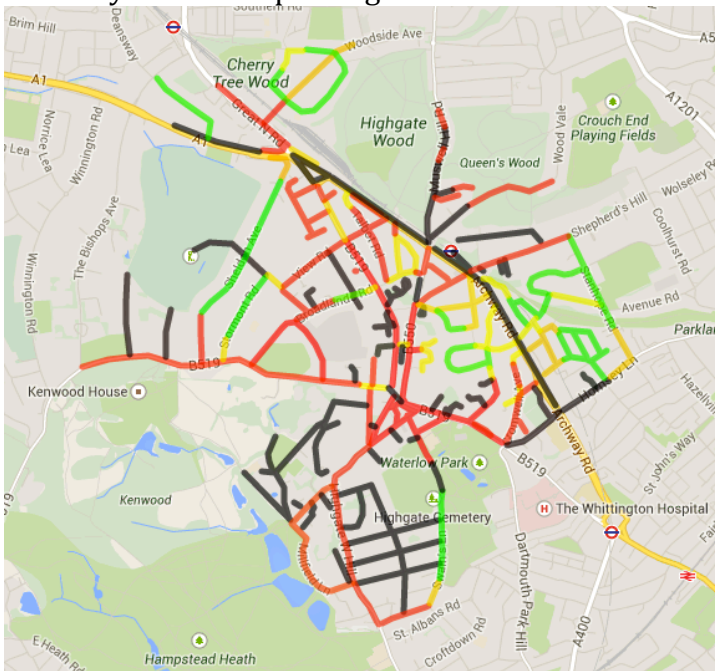
We conclude that there are various types of parking status on Highgate’s roads:

1. Highgate has many private roads. (These are among the black roads.) They are mainly on the Camden side and include Holly Lodge and Fitzroy Park. These are out of scope so far as the Forum or council is concerned as they have their own rules.
2. There are some roads that have parking space pretty much all the time. (These are green roads on both maps.) Examples might include Sheldon Road, Stormont Road, Lanchester Road and Cholmeley Crescent. A morning CPZ exists but even out of that, except in exceptional circumstances, there will be space to park.
3. Largely clear at night, full by day. (These are green roads at night and red by day.) This is the most common type of road. The most dramatic examples are Hampstead Lane and Bishopswood Road. It is clear that Highgate “imports” lots of cars on a typical day – people drive to Highgate to work or on-commute. If a morning CPZ exists, the road will not fill up until after noon.
4. Constant medium pressure. (These are yellow/orange roads on both maps.) Examples include a number of small roads on either side of Archway Road, such as Highgate Avenue and Northwood Road. At night and day, there are plenty of cars but also nearly always space to park.
5. Full by night but space during the day. (These are red roads at night and green or yellow/orange by day.) The few roads like this tend to be where some terraced houses have been converted into flats, where more people use their cars to get to work than visit the area by day. Examples are the Miltons and Stanhope Gardens.
6. Some roads are full by day and full at night. Like the above category, the housing is reasonably dense (with flats) and there’s little off street parking but they also have many day visitors. At the top of the Cromwells and on Highgate Hill, visitors come to the Whittington, Ghana consulate and Channing. On North Road, there is the pull of Highgate School and the village amenities.

Conclusion

- Most Highgate residents can park near their homes at night but some can't.
- The in-commuter parking during the day causes very real problems on many streets when CPZ hours do not apply. For some residents it has reached crisis point.
- Using a car to come to shop or use a service in Highgate involves driving around looking for parking. This is polluting and damages retail and commercial viability.
- There are streets where kerb space is under-used and there could be more parking.
- Parking policy needs to be changed and different solutions are required to solve the problems and exploit the opportunity existing on different streets.

Weekday afternoon parking:



Late weekday evening:

