

Dear Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood Community Board,

Our names are Jasper Sharp, Noah Evans, and Charlie Bowker, we are students from Shirley Boys' High School and we want to bring the parking situation at Shirley Boys' and Avonside Girls' to your attention.

Currently, there is a shortage of parking spaces on campus for students and staff. This issue has escalated due to the recent closure of the gravel area opposite the Santa Parade Trust, which had previously served as a parking lot for our school and community. The closure of this gravel area has forced students to seek parking alternatives, such as side streets, QE2 and gymnastics car park. To make matters worse all parking spaces along Travis Road have been put to a three-minute parking limit. This action has increased the existing problem and further limits available parking for our students and staff. Alongside that, we also have 120 staff at Shirley Boys alone but there are only 150 parks on site dedicated for both Avonside and Shirley Boys High School which is not nearly enough.

We have surveyed all year 12 and 13 students at Shirley Boys High School and of those who drive we found out that about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the students park down side streets or at the QEII or gymnastics car park. Two of these main side streets are Wattle Drive and Blue Gum Pl, which have a large population of elderly residents. An increased number of parents dropping/picking up their children and students parking down these streets has caused an influx of traffic and congestion. This is causing struggle for the residents who are forced to deal with the noise and not being able to park outside their own house.

We have interviewed residents in the area and they find the students parking down their streets is a big problem for them. Here are a few statements we got from the residents:

- "I live on Wattle Drive, ever since the start of the year there have been a large number of students parking on Wattle Drive. This gets very annoying when I'm trying to reverse out of my drive as there are a lot of cars that don't give me much room to work with. "
- "I live in a blue gum place, lately the students parking down my street have been very busy and annoying. They create a lot of noise and rubbish, there have been multiple times when a student has parked in front of my driveway. This has been more of a problem in the past few months rather than the last couple of years."
- "I'm a resident of blue gum place. The large influx of school kids parking down my street in the mornings causes me a lot of trouble when trying to get to work. It would be nice if the students had a designated parking space that wasn't down our street. I struggle to find a park outside my own house because of the students"

- “I’m really sick of the school kids and would love to have the street back to normal. I’m really over it, I’ve tried contacting the council multiple times but my phone conversations go nowhere. I’ve got a newborn child and I can’t even park outside my house, sometimes I have to park all the way down the street”
- “I have to plan my day around not leaving at the times when students are around as it's too tricky to get out. I am finding myself always picking up litter on my property which I assume is from the students.”

Everyone in the adjacent community we talked to seemed fed up with the cars parking down the streets and were eager to sign our petition and get something done about this issue.

We also asked QEII their opinion on the matter, they said they receive a lot of students parking in their parks. The staff at QEII have made it very clear that they do not want students parking there. they said, “The students cause noise, traffic and leave rubbish”. The QE2 car park gets very full throughout the day and especially after school. Students who park there are essentially causing QE2 to lose money as their paying customers can not find any parks, especially on days with sport games such as Saturday rugby.

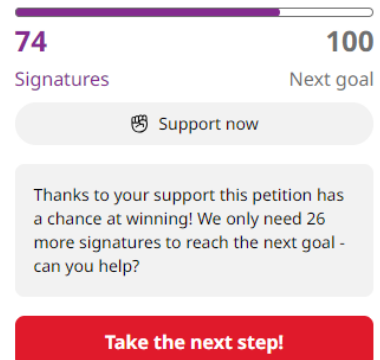
We have gained a lot of support from people in the community. We surveyed the senior students at our school on parking around the school. We found out that 58% of the students who drive struggle with finding parking around the school. 80% of students were in favour of reopening the gravel car park to students and staff. We have also created a petition (<https://chnq.it/Vcr27927Cm>) which has received 74 signatures, and we have also gone around with a paper petition and got over 20 Signatures from residents of the area.

SBHS AND AGHS PARKING EPIDEMIC



Started

22 June 2023



We have talked to the council on this matter as well, after the car park was closed to public access at the start of the year. They have received a larger than normal number of complaints from the community.

Our solution

We believe that the best course of action for this issue would be to grant the school caretakers the ability to open and close the car park between the hours of 8:00am - 4:00pm. This would mean that people won't be creating noise and trouble outside of school hours and it can also be monitored and maintained a lot easier. We think that reopening Carpark would have a positive impact on the community, not just the students at Shirley Boys High School but also the wider community. It would provide parking for all the students and staff at Shirley Boys High School, giving the students somewhere to park would solve the majority of the issues residents and QEII are having with students.

We kindly request that the community board thoroughly assess the consequences of the parking removals on our school and community. Insufficient parking spaces on campus or in the vicinity is severely impacting the accessibility and safety of our school.

We hope we can come to an agreement and we look forward to hearing from you.
Kind regards.

Charlie Bowker, Noah Evans, and Jasper Sharp.