

Sent: May 30, 2025 2:30 PM

Subject: CORRESPONDENCE FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

To whom it may concern,

We are Tracy Leckie and Rick Gillman, owners of Saucy Pasta at 47A Bruce St. S.

We are requesting our issue be heard by Town Council with hope for a favourable resolution.

We have invested a great deal of time with TBM and Grey County trying to resolve the parking situation along the shoulder on our block.

This has been ongoing. We have met with the Mayor and By-Law previously and thought there was a firm commitment to resolve the situation.

When nothing was done, we booked another appointment with Andrea Matrosov to follow up, that she failed to show up for. Feeling unvalued and ignored, we reached out directly to the county and spoke with Patrick Hoy, who was aware of the issue and we were told they were working on a resolution. Still, we have heard nothing.

The strip has a 2 hour limit--we previously lobbied the county to have the 2 hour signs erected a few years ago because people routinely parked all day. People still ignore them and are parking half all or all day. Being on a hill, many people with mobility or health issues have great difficulty or are unable to come up the hill entirely, to shop. Furthermore, we have been told by regulars they don't stop in because there is never any parking.

Meanwhile, there are a number of employees of other businesses and trades people working on neighbouring businesses that park with impunity all day.

By-law has been absolutely no help with this, despite being called dozens of times.

This is the scenario--we wait until the cars have been parked over the 2 hour limit and call by-law. They don't pick up much of the time. When they do, they say they will send somebody out. By the time they do, the car has been there about 3 hours. They take note of the plate and "try" to come back 2 hours later to ticket. It is a flawed system. I have never seen a ticket handed out. It is a useless system. We have reported license plates of constant weekly offenders but nothing gets done.

We have proposed to the Mayor, By-Law and County that the strip of parking in the block between Smitty's and the former Dam Pub should be changed to a 15 minute pick up zone. This will serve a number of purposes.

First, provide short term parking for people to pick up something and leave. The majority of businesses up the hill--Smitty's (dropping off/picking up bikes), Cranky Bear (grabbing a coffee), ReMax (checking out a listing), the business being renovated to be a bottle shop

next door (pick-up and go), and ourselves would benefit from this. There is plenty of parking on and behind the first block to accommodate longer term parkers.

Secondly, it gives people with mobility issues accessibility. The winter months are especially difficult to navigate the sidewalk, even for able bodied people. There is a local with a walker that must rest on the bench outside daily to catch her breath, after climbing the hill from Smitty's. This is a reminder of the challenge the hill poses, that more able bodied people take for granted.

Thirdly, it will deter local employees and tradespeople from parking there for long periods because it isn't enforced. After meeting with them, BIA sent out a blurb in their newsletter to ask their employees to refrain from parking on the main street that was totally ineffective. We see the same handful of employees who park for 2 hours plus regularly, some of whom we have repeatedly asked to park elsewhere with no success. They feel the right to park for 2 hours, they say. While true, they are hurting fellow businesses and don't care.

The 15 minute limit would allow By-law to effectively do their job (which both alleviates the problem and adds to town revenue).

Furthermore, as we cook our products locally and have to deliver them to the retail store, we are constantly having to double park and block traffic to do this, because the spaces don't turn over. A spot designated as a loading zone would also be helpful to ourselves and Smitty's, who constantly blocks traffic for the same reason as their couriers stop to drop off new bikes constantly.

Finally, one of the Town counselors who is sympathetic to our situation also thought painted lines would also be helpful, as people often space too far apart, and take up more spaces than necessary.

We have noticed on social media that many surrounding towns, including Clarksburg and Meaford, have downtowns suffering from similar problems--specifically mentioning business owners and employees taking up parking. We believe a small designated area with 15 minute, easily enforceable, parking is a good solution.

We have just entered our 6th year in Thornbury. We fed this community tirelessly throughout the pandemic when there were few options. This situation has impacted our business to the point we are considering closing in Thornbury and moving to Collingwood, where we had great success. We would hate to have to exercise that option.

Our larger store in Cranberry Mews led to greater exposure that won our business several awards but was closed due to almost 40% rent increase. Our popularity now brings a lot of traffic from our regulars from Collingwood and the surrounding area into Thornbury.

Being a proudly local business and residents of TBM for 25+ years, we hope those responsible for change can support us and see the merit in our request and expediently offer a workable solution.

Please reach out if you require any additional information.

Best regards,
Tracy Leckie & Rick Gillman
Saucy Pasta
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