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SUMMER LOVIN', Brighton Residents Not Having a Blast

Starting next year, street parking bans will apply along the Esplanade on weekends, between October 1 and April 30, to improve safety and traffic flow.

Brighton City Council announced yesterday that visitors will face steep fines if they park within 300m of the beach, primarily affecting areas between King St and Marlborough St. The aim being to ensure that residents can always access their properties during peak periods, including at night.

Communications officer Thomas Ng said that the Council had received a lot of complaints from residents last summer about people parking across driveways, with some vehicles even blocking off multiple driveways at a time.

Resident Zoe Branson recalled, "Last summer it was my sister's wedding, and we got blocked in by someone parking across the driveway."

"We had to get my dad to come and pick us up because we had no way of getting out."

"What if there was an emergency?"

Plans were also unveiled to build a six-storey car park on Cedar Ave, across from the train station, to ease traffic congestion and reduce accidents and risks to pedestrians.

Cr Roscoe de Riveres was one of the eight councillors who expressed concern about the potential dangers of overcrowding.

"It's better to have safe and well-managed parking than chaos on the streets."

"It will help residents, because they'll be able to get to their houses, and it will help visitors, because they won't spend hours driving around looking for a park."

The owner of the Brighton Sands Hotel, Renee Borgas is supportive of the changes to parking arrangements, especially for older people.

"At least a few times each weekend in summer we get a call or a text from someone who's booked but says they can't make it because they can't find a park anywhere within reasonable walking distance."

"If there's parking pretty much guaranteed close by, people will know they can be confident about finding somewhere without too much trouble."

Parking in the new multi-storey car park will be free for the first two hours, followed by fees of \$5 per hour, up to a maximum of \$20 per day.

Local café owner, Tomas De Gruyter is worried about the impact of parking fees on his business, Café Tomasi, which opened in February.

“If the numbers of people in the area are reduced because they have to pay to park, then it’ll be very hard for me to make ends meet.”

“If they know they’re going to have to start paying after two hours, they’re not going to stick around. Or they’re going to go somewhere else in the first place.”

20-year-old Flinders University student, Josh Gardiner, who lives at Marion, said, “I guess if parking was easier on weekends I’d probably come here then, but I don’t want to have to pay.”

A full list of streets set to have no-parking zones will be released in six weeks’ time.