

Pensioner's disgust over car parking loss at flats

By **ALEX HICKEY**

A DISABLED pensioner is disgusted by a decision to remove residents' parking rights from a block of flats.

Eryl Wyn Davies, 63, who lives in the Maes y Felin flats in Y Felinheli, is furious that Gwynedd Council has overturned the rights of the mainly elderly residents of the flats to park, or allow their relatives to park, outside their homes.

The six parking bays are now open for use by the general public, which has left Mrs Davies, a disabled blue badge holder, with no choice but to park on a grass verge some nights.

But she faces being hit with an on-the-spot fine by traffic wardens if she continues to do that.

An exasperated Mrs Davies said: "I am left with nowhere to park.

"I may have to try and a parking space in Bangor Street, which is five to 10 minutes walk way, but they are bumper to bumper there most days."

She says the problem has only come to light recently because the owner of the nearby former Conservative Club has built houses on its former car park, forcing villagers to fight over spaces.

When she complained to the council about non-residents parking outside the flats she was stunned to be told that anyone could park there now.

'I'm left with no parking space'

"There has been no discussion about this, no letter, nothing and apparently we can't do anything about it," she added.

Mrs Davies said highways officials offered her the option of including a disabled bay on the site but they gave her no idea if or when it would be built and confirmed it could be used by any blue badge holder.

She also criticised her county councillor Sian Gwenllian for doing "absolutely nothing for the older people in the flats".

"I always thought councillors were here to help people but she hasn't done that. This has been taken away from us without any discussion and I am disgusted by the councillor's attitude in this," she said.

Cllr Gwenllian said the residents' parking was granted to the flat owners by the former Arfon Borough Council and had changed "way before my time".

"A number of tenants asked me to look into the situation and I held meetings with council officers. I was eventually told the tenants have no particular rights and that the sign is incorrect.

"I sympathise with all villagers who have problems finding a place to park and I am working with the community council to find solutions," she added.



PARKING WOE: Eryl Wyn Davies is angry that Gwynedd Council has taken parking rights away from Maes Felin flats, Felinheli.

Pic: ARWYN ROBERTS AR180210Parking