

Brookes gives out passes to address parking problems

Action is response to concerns at Wheatley campus

By Pete Hughes

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OXFORD Brookes University says it has given out 1,000 additional bus passes to help reduce the number of students parking on roads near its Wheatley campus.

A queue of parked cars is forcing traffic to drive on the wrong side of Waterperry Road in Holton — and local residents say it is only a matter of time before someone is killed.

The extra bus passes represent a 20 per cent increase on the 5,000 already given out to students for free.

The university has also introduced parking wardens in a bid to address residents' concerns.

Brookes director of corporate affairs Anne Gwinnett said that the university was trying to "mitigate the problem".

She said: "Oxford Brookes



Action: Anne Gwinnett

encourages students to leave their cars at home.

"The Brookes Bus has routes covering the city and runs four times an hour to and from Wheatley campus during the day.

"In late afternoons and evenings we allow people to park

on campus without a permit."

But not all residents are convinced by the new measures.

Victoria Harding-Saunders, 30, said: "That is absolute rubbish, the line has got longer and longer every day this year, it is now a good mile long. They are not doing enough."

Judy Harding-Saunders, 56, said: "It is so scary if you meet a big lorry. You either have to reverse or drive in a ditch.

"When all the students are walking in the road you have to toot them, or one of us will have an accident."

County council spokesman Martin Crabtree said that some residents had objected to the idea of double yellow lines, because it would just move the problem to a different location.

Despite the concerns about road safety in the area, Thames Valley Police declined to comment.