



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)

LETTER OF REPRESENTATION WEST GROVE, WALTON ON THAMES

21 SEPTEMBER 2009

KEY ISSUE

To update members on the investigations carried out and conclusions, following the submission of a letter of representation to the July meeting of this Committee.

SUMMARY

This report updates members following the letter of representation received at the July meeting, accompanied by a verbal representation by the lead representative, requesting the introduction of waiting restrictions in the West Grove/Belgrave Close area.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Elmbridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members are reminded that a letter of representation was submitted to the July 2009 meeting of the Local Committee, requesting the introduction of waiting restrictions in the West Grove/Belgrave Close area. The main desire of the representatives is to prevent the congestion and overcrowding caused by cars parked by users of Walton-on-Thames railway station.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 As a result of commuter parking filling the road with parked cars from early in the morning until late in the evening, residents experience problems entering and leaving their driveways because cars are parked as close as possible to the dropped kerbs. This makes it very difficult for residents leaving their drives to see what is coming along the road.
- 2.2 Similar problems occur at the junction of West Grove and Belgrave Close, where cars parking up to and even on the junction make it very difficult for drivers leaving Belgrave Close to see what is coming.
- 2.3 This location is just outside the boundary of the controlled parking zone to the south of Walton-on-Thames station, and clearly people using the station prefer to park for free in West Grove rather than pay for their parking in the car park near the station.
- 2.4 Surrey County Council's Parking Strategy and Implementation Group have received other letters from people in the area expressing concerns about the excessive and inconsiderate parking and the problems it causes, and an initial look at the site has confirmed that the location should be added to a list of sites for further assessment which will be carried out in December 2008 - January 2009.
- 2.5 Surrey County Council's Parking Strategy and Implementation Group undertake site assessments on a phased basis with a view to making a number of changes in any one area at the same time. If their assessment results included a proposal to introduce parking restrictions in West Grove and Belgrave Close, this will be initially considered by the Civil Parking Enforcement Task Group, and then, subject to this group's approval, included in a report which will be submitted to the Local Committee at a future meeting.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 If the Local Committee approves the proposal to progress the scheme, consultation with local residents, businesses and other stakeholders would take place in order to determine the most appropriate solution. As

part of the statutory process of making a traffic regulation order Surrey Police and other emergency services would also be consulted.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 If the scheme were to be progressed, it would need to be funded (along with any other amendments which resulted from a review of the list of sites for further assessment) from the Local Transport Plan allocation.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The representatives state that the overcrowded parking has caused confrontation between motorists where the road has effectively been reduced to one lane by cars parked on both sides of the road. Such “road rage” would cease if the parking were controlled.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The proposals for parking controls in West Grove/Belgrave Close area have been added to a list of sites in Elmbridge which will be assessed further by Surrey County Council’s Parking Strategy and Implementation Group.

8 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 8.1 Surrey County Council’s Parking Strategy and Implementation Group will assess all the requests for parking and waiting restrictions during December 2009 and January 2010, and present a report to the Local Committee at their meeting in March 2010, with recommendations of which requests should be taken forward.

LEAD OFFICER/ CONTACT OFFICER: Rikki Hill, Parking Projects Manager
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009
E-MAIL: parking@surreycc.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS: None