



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(ELMBRIDGE)**

**LETTER OF REPRESENTATION
FRENCH GARDENS
6 DECEMBER 2010**

KEY ISSUE

To update members on the investigations carried out, conclusions and recommendations made, following the Letter of Representation to the June 2010 meeting of this Committee.

SUMMARY

This report updates Members on the investigations into the request for French Gardens to become a no car-parking zone, or a controlled parking zone as set out within a Letter of Representation at the June Committee. A report to the Local Committee was agreed following further investigation, and this report presents the results of those findings.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The Local Committee Elmbridge is asked to: Note the contents of this report.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Members are reminded that the following letter of representation was received at the June meeting of this committee:

“Our neighbour Ron Hope at no.19 has been in contact recently with Elmbridge Council and Surrey CC regarding the problems caused by non-residents using French Gardens as a public car park. Earlier this month I spoke to the Council about the similar matter and that as a consequence, proper road sweeping had not been done. Ron's contact made reference to the fact that parked vehicles at the corner of our road and Hogshill Lane had prevented refuse disposal trucks getting in and our refuse not being collected, also blocking our vision, looking down Hogshill Lane when trying to exit French Gardens.

We have been promised consideration by the Council of our complaints and were advised that if all residents were of the same view our case would carry more weight. At present we have had one vehicle parked outside no 21 for seven/eight weeks, the Council are aware of this and have promised action. Controlled parking in Freeland's Road and now Cedar Road has meant that our problems have worsened and without doubt will worsen further when the new additional properties in Hogshill Lane are completed, this year.

Our case is that on street parking in French Gardens by non-residents has to be controlled - the road is too narrow and clear access to and from our private driveways is regularly obstructed. We are sympathetic towards those who travel to Cobham by car to work but we think that the Council should provide special rates for these people to use public car park, it is unreasonable of them to regard French Gardens as a car park.

Whatever support you can give to this would be much appreciated. Ideally we would like French Gardens to be a no car parking zone, but if this is not possible, at the very least, a CPZ -controlled parking zone.”

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 As part of the 2009 parking review, the parking team considered a request to install double yellow lines at the junction of French Gardens and Hogshill Lane, in order to facilitate access for refuse vehicles and improve drivers' sightlines when exiting French Gardens. Following an on site assessment the parking team, with the support of the Parking Task Group, recommended that this restriction should be introduced and that recommendation was agreed by this committee at its meeting in March. Funding for the implementation was agreed at the meeting in September and the preparations for the advertisement of this new control, and all the others from that review, are currently taking place.

2.2 Members of the parking team have been in regular contact with residents of French Gardens, in particular Mr Hope, over the last several months, and were broadly aware of the issues mentioned in this letter of representation and the location and its issues have been added to the list for consideration during the 2010 parking review which is currently scheduled to take place during June and July 2011.

2.3 It is worth remembering that if vehicles are parked in such a way that they are causing an obstruction, either to other motorists, or to pedestrians, the police still have powers to take action against those vehicles.

3 OPTIONS

3.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

4 CONSULTATION

4.1 Much informal consultation has already taken place by way of email and phone conversations with residents in French Gardens, and this would continue should the Local Committee were to decide to approve the proposal to progress the scheme as part of next year's review. As part of the statutory process of making a traffic regulation order Surrey Police and other emergency services would also be consulted.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 The issues described in the letter of representations and the request of the residents for additional parking controls have been added to the list of requests and will be assessed during the 2011 parking review.

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

9.1 The results of this assessment will be reported to a future meeting of the Local Committee.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None