



**Proposed Disabled Persons' Parking
Bays in Bonsey Lane and Sappho
Court, Woking
Proposed Traffic Regulation Order**

11 SEPTEMBER 2002

KEY ISSUE:

To seek approval for a Traffic Regulation Order which will enable the Police to enforce the disabled persons' parking bays in Bonsey Lane, Westfield and Sappho Court, Goldsworth Park.

SUMMARY:

Able-bodied drivers are parking in disabled drivers' parking bays in Bonsey Lane and Sappho Court, making it difficult for disabled residents to use their cars. Making the bays enforceable should remove this problem and improve the quality of life for the disabled residents.

CONSULTATIONS:

Disabled residents want action taken to overcome the problem described above. The Police have been consulted on the proposals and have no objections.

If approved, the proposals will be advertised in the local press and on the Council's website, so that members of the public are given an opportunity to make representations.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to agree

- (i) **that a Traffic Regulation Order be advertised, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to make the disabled persons' parking bays in Bonsey Lane and Sappho Court, Woking, enforceable, and that, if no objections are received, the order be made; and**
- (ii) **that authority be delegated to the Local Transportation Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Divisional Member, to consider and determine any objections and to make the order.**

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. The Local Transport Manager occasionally receives requests from disabled persons for the provision of a disabled persons' parking bay to enable them to park on street close to their property. All requests are assessed individually and, if the request is deemed to be reasonable, the parking bay is provided, following consultation with the applicant's neighbours.
2. The bay is defined by a broken white line and the word "DISABLED" displayed on the carriageway. It may be used by any disabled badge-holder. However, without an appropriate Traffic Regulation Order, and accompanying sign, the bay cannot be enforced by the Police. The procedure is outlined in the County's Manual of Policy and Procedures, which recommends that, initially, only the white markings on the carriageway are provided. This keeps costs to a minimum and is generally satisfactory, as most motorists respect the markings. However, occasionally such parking bays are abused by able-bodied drivers who park in them. If this is a regular occurrence, causing hardship for disabled drivers, then consideration is given to making a Traffic Regulation Order so that the Police may take action against such abuse.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

3. Complaints have been received from disabled residents in both Bonsey Lane and Sappho Court, Woking about able-bodied drivers parking in the disabled parking bays, and as site inspections have revealed this to be the case, it is proposed that a Traffic Regulation Order is made so that the bays can be enforced by the Police.
4. The proposals are shown on Drawing Nos. 11367 and 11368 attached as Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The cost of advertising and making the order, and of providing the necessary signs, is estimated to be £1200 and can be funded from the Signs and Aids to Movement budget for 2002/3.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no sustainable development implications.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7. Once the Traffic Regulation Order has been made, parking by drivers not displaying a legal disabled persons' badge will be an offence, enforceable by the Police.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8. Making the bays enforceable should improve access to private transport, as enjoyed by able-bodied drivers, for the disabled drivers concerned, thus promoting their levels of social inclusion.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

9. Disabled residents in Bonsey Lane and Sappho Court are experiencing regular problems with able-bodied drivers parking in disabled drivers' parking bays.
10. Making the bays enforceable should remove this problem and improve the quality of life for these residents.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

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