



# **172 – 184 GOLDSWORTH ROAD VERGE PARKING**

**23 July 2003**

## **KEY ISSUE:**

To consider proposals to improve the current parking situation and damage to verges outside 172 – 184 Goldsworth Road.

## **SUMMARY:**

Areas of grass in front of 172 – 184 Goldsworth Road have been used by residents and their visitors for vehicle parking, causing damage to the highway verge.

The area appears unsightly and is on a major access route to Woking Town Centre. It is not practical to displace the long established parking which currently occurs.

Four proposals have been considered and treating the area with a plastic mesh strong enough to allow vehicle over run whilst allowing grass to grow through is most appropriate when considering the current situation

and the aims of any scheme.

**CONSULTATIONS:**

The Divisional Member and Woking Borough Councillors met on site on 26 June 2003 to discuss the current situation and possible remedies.

Residents directly affected were consulted and advised of a proposal to repair the verges and install an alternative surface that would allow parking whilst maintaining the appearance of the area. Two residents have responded with comments but did not oppose the proposal.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Committee is asked to agree

**that damaged areas of the Highway verges outside 172 –184 Goldsworth Road be treated with a plastic mesh which will allow grass growth and vehicle parking, thus improving the current appearance of the area.**

## **INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND**

1. Areas of grass, part of the Highway, in front of 172 – 184 Goldsworth Road (Annex A) have for a number of years been used by residents and their visitors for vehicle parking. This has caused rutting, destruction of the grass cover and in Winter the area lies wet and muddy: it is unsightly and on a major route into Woking Town Centre.

2. At its meeting of 13 November 2002 the Local Committee were presented with a proposal to prevent vehicle parking on the verge with wooden posts and then reinstate the verge. The Committee resolved to defer any decision and asked that officers investigated other possible solutions.

## **ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

3. Parking on the area by residents and their visitors has occurred for many years. Access is easily obtained via the tarmacadam vehicle crossings, which access each property.

4. Four proposals were considered:-

- a. To accept the long established practice of residents parking in front of their houses and DO NOTHING. This did not accord with the views of the Divisional and ward members, who wished to see the appearance of the area improved.
- b. To prevent resident parking by erecting POSTS protecting the verge areas. This proposal was not accepted by the Local Committee at its meeting of 13 November 2002. The number of posts required, due to the area being divided by individual property driveways, was seen as visually intrusive to the street scene. There was also the issue of where the vehicles displaced by this proposal would be parked.
- c. To install TARMACADAM parking areas. If the purpose of any intervention was to create an improved visual appearance this proposal would not be considered appropriate. It would in effect create a small car park on this main access to the Town Centre. However it would remove the current poor earth surface and drainage problems.
- d. To install PLASTIC mesh strong enough to allow vehicle parking whilst allowing grass to grow through openings in its surface. This would not prevent vehicle parking but would improve appearance. One feature of this proposal would be better drainage removing the current rutting whilst retaining grass cover, which could be cut in the normal manner. (A manufacturers diagram of a typical product is shown at Annex B.)

5. This was the preferred option for the Divisional Member and Woking Borough Council Ward Councillors at the site meeting held on 23 June.

6. The vehicle crossings to properties are currently ill defined at their edges where the grass verge starts. This situation would be improved by the insertion of edging strips and making good the current damage to vehicle crossings.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7. The cost of this proposal would be £7,000 and currently funding has not been identified.

#### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

8. This proposal would improve the visual appearance of this major route to Woking Town Centre.

#### **CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9. There are no crime and disorder implications.

#### **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10. There are no equalities implications.

#### **CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

11. The current situation outside 172 – 184 Goldsworth Road with damaged verges is unsightly and does not give a good impression on a major route to the town centre.

12. Residents and their visitors have used these areas for vehicle parking over a number of years and it is not practical to displace them to other areas in the locality.

13. The application of plastic mesh, which allows vehicle parking whilst maintaining grass cover will balance these demands and improve the visual appearance of the area.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: Nil**