



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)

RESPONSE TO PETITION REGARDING A DROP OFF POINT OUTSIDE THE MARJORIE RICHARDSON CENTRE, HIGH STREET, WOKING

29 June 2011

KEY ISSUE

To advise the Committee of the revised response to a petition received regarding the provision of a drop off point outside the Marjorie Richardson Centre, High Street, Woking.

SUMMARY

A petition containing over 50 signatures, was received and reported to Committee on 9 February 2011. The tabled response was not acceptable to the Marjorie Richardson Centre or the Local Committee and it was agreed that a further response would be submitted.

Concerns

There are concerns about the inability for visitors to be dropped off close to the centre. Similarly, there was concern that the proposal that was previously reported to Local Committee would not work and would be of no benefit to visitors to the centre

OFFICER COMMENT

The Marjorie Richardson Centre is based at 19 High Street, Woking. There are on-street parking places outside; a length of disabled parking is immediately outside the centre with pay-and-display to each side.

Drop off zones cannot be marked on the highway and the previous proposal to provide a drop off facility was to extend the length of the disabled bays. However, the Centre Manager was not convinced that these bays would remain free and available for use as a drop off facility, particularly that there appears to be mis-use of the existing bays.

Officers subsequently met with the managers of the centre to discuss an alternative solution in the form of a kerb build out. The proposed build out, directly outside the centre, would project out through the current parking places so that vehicles that are dropping off or picking up visitors can stop in the road and would not have to pull in to a parking place. In essence, it would formalise what already happens, since vehicles are rarely able to pull into a parking space. Furthermore, it would allow visitors to step down onto a raised footway rather than onto the road. This could make a significant difference for the many visitors who have mobility problems and are unable to walk far.

Although the vehicles would stop in the road, there would still be room for other vehicles to pass. The vehicles will only stop for relatively short periods of time.

An outline sketch is shown at Annex A.

In the short term, one disabled parking space would be lost because of the kerb build out being constructed on it. However, the restrictions along this length of High Street will be included in the next Woking On Street Parking Review and it is expected that this bay will be reinstated elsewhere as part of that review. A Traffic Regulation Order will be required for the review but not for the construction of the build out.

Officers have identified developer funding presently held by Woking Borough Council for construction of this highways infrastructure improvement. Final design checks will now be carried out and subject to receipt of funding, it is anticipated that the build-out can be constructed this financial year.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

This report is for information only.

Subject to receipt of the identified developer funding from Woking Borough Council, the build-out will be constructed. Changes to the parking bays will be included in the next parking review.

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Version No. 2 Date: 08/06/2011 Time: 0841 Initials: KP No of annexes: 1