



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

REVIEW OF ON-STREET PARKING IN HASLEMERE: PHASE 1 RESPONSE TO STATUTORY CONSULTATION

24 January 2013

KEY ISSUE

To review the response to the advertisement which took place in October and November 2012 about residents' parking schemes and other waiting restrictions in Haslemere and to decide which of the proposals should proceed.

SUMMARY

Following representations from residents as well as extensive consultation about on street parking issues in Haslemere during 2012, Surrey Highways formally advertised a number of changes to on street parking controls in the town during October/November 2012. This report sets out the response to the advertisement and provides recommendations on the way forward for the 'Phase 1' proposals.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to agree:

- (i) That residents' parking schemes are implemented as detailed in Annex 2 and shown on plans on Annex 3 in:
 - St Christopher's Green
 - Kings Road
 - Longdene Road
 - Sandrock
 - Chestnut Avenue
 - Popes Mead/ West Street (near the fire station)
 - Tanners Lane (opposite Railway Cottages)

- (ii) That waiting restrictions are introduced for road safety and parking management purposes as shown in Annex 3.
- (iii) That the allocation and cost of residents' and visitors' permits in these schemes is as described in section 3.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council is the Highway Authority in Surrey and responsible for managing the highway network, including on street parking.
- 1.2 In January and February 2012 we carried out a formal advertisement of new on street parking proposals in Haslemere including on street parking charges, residents parking schemes and other parking controls.
- 1.3 At their meeting on the 16th March 2012 , the Local Committee for Waverley agreed that parking charges should not go ahead in Haslemere, but that amended proposals for resident permit schemes and other parking controls to help with road safety and access should proceed. However in May 2012, owing to continued feedback from Haslemere residents, the County Council decided that it should carry out further informal consultation to determine if there was support for residents' parking before formally proposing to introduce any schemes.
- 1.4 Three petitions were presented to the Local Committee at its meeting in June. These requested reconsideration of the residents' parking permit schemes in St Christopher's Green and Popes Mead/West Street and reconsideration of the parking controls in Bunch Lane that had initially been agreed in March. As can be seen in this report, all three proposals have been reconsidered.
- 1.5 On the 19 July the County Council's parking team started an informal consultation to determine the views of residents about resident permit schemes in the roads where support had previously been shown. They sent letters, with an accompanying sheet of frequently asked questions (FAQs), to residents in the following roads, inviting them to complete an on line questionnaire, and attend a public exhibition on the 9 August, if they wanted to.
 - Bridge Road
 - Chestnut Avenue
 - Courts Hill Road
 - Derby Road (between Church Road and High Lane)
 - Kings Road
 - Longdene Road
 - Popes Mead/ West Street (near the fire station)
 - Sandrock
 - St Christopher's Green

- St Christopher's Road
 - Tanners Lane (between Church Road and Church Lane)
- 1.6 Although residents' parking was not proposed in Lower Street or Shepherds Hill, the parking team also sent a similar letter and set of FAQs to residents in these roads, inviting them to complete the survey and/or attend the exhibition.
- 1.7 This consultation response was reported to the Local Committee in September 2012 and the Local Committee agreed to proceed with formally advertising proposals (Phase 1) in some locations as described in the annexes.

2 RESPONSE TO OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2012 ADVERTISEMENT

- 2.1 The period during which people could respond to the advertisement ran from the 18th October to the 16th November 2012. The advertisement only invites objections to proposals, however some residents sent in supportive comments. Plans showing the advertised proposals are shown in Annex 3.
- 2.2 A press notice was placed in the Haslemere Herald.
- 2.3 In addition, street notices were placed on all roads where changes to parking restrictions were proposed.
- 2.4 Documents explaining the proposals were placed on deposit at the Haslemere Library and Waverley Borough Council offices.
- 2.5 All of the information, including drawings were available on the Surrey County Council web page, Parking News and Updates in Waverley.
- 2.6 A summary of the objections received about proposals in each location is shown in Annex 1.
- 2.7 A total of 382 objections and letters of support were received to the proposals during the objection period. Some letters/emails and web responses objected to a single item, others to several and some to everything. Some objections were very vague and non specific whilst others were detailed.
- 2.8 Where it was possible to identify a specific objection to a proposal, it has been added to the total either for or against a location in Annex 1. In some cases petitions were received in support of proposals and the number of supporters has been included.
- 2.9 General objections are grouped together and the themes of these objections are described in Annex 2.

- 2.10 Annex 2 summarises the objections in more detail with a response and a recommended way forward.
- 2.11 52 Residents from Lower Street and Shepherds Hill petitioned the Local Committee in December 2012 requesting that they were included in the current residents' parking proposals described in this report (Phase 1). Many residents from these roads also sent in objections during the consultation period.
- 2.12 An objective of Phase 1 has been to minimise displacement (one of the major concerns from consultation respondents). It is not possible to provide on street parking in Lower Street, and Shepherds Hill has very limited capacity. To provide parking for these residents it would be necessary to allocate parking in other surrounding roads, (often used by commuters). This would cause more significant displacement of commuters and therefore it is linked to Phase 2, which will also look at additional parking capacity near the station.
- 2.13 Inclusion of Lower Street and Shepherd Hill residents in the Phase 1 schemes that are proposed in this report could also mean there would not be enough space for the residents who live in these roads.
- 2.14 Following implementation of Phase 1, Phase 2 will follow, which will, amongst other objectives mentioned in this report, look at parking provision for residents of Lower Street and Shepherds Hill.
- 2.15 The highway authority does not have a duty to provide resident parking, and residents of these roads must have moved to their properties in the knowledge that they did not have off street parking.

3 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The introduction of new waiting restrictions and residents' parking schemes has cost implications in terms of the necessary lining and signing, enforcement and administration. The income from the sale of residents' parking permits contributes towards the cost of administering and enforcing residents' parking schemes. Street specific parking schemes can be more expensive and time consuming to administer. The estimated cost of implementing the residents' parking schemes described in this report is £10,000.
- 3.2 The cost of the first residents permit is £50. Where allowed subsequent permits are £75 each and visitors' permits are £2 per day. A nominal charge of £10 is made for carers' permits.
- 3.3 The Local Committee (Waverley) has allocated £15,000 from their 2012/13 revenue budget to implement the 'parking review' element of the recommendations in this report. Any additional costs for this and the

proposed implementation of permit schemes will be funded from the parking team's works budget.

4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Blue badge holders can park in disabled parking bays or on yellow lines for up to three hours and are exempt from charges. They can also park for an unlimited period in residents' permit parking bays.
- 4.2 Carers' permits are available for the use of either carers employed by a private firm where the carers are not medically qualified but do assist the resident with vital household tasks such as dressing etc. or to other family members who assist a resident in this way. In this case the permit is issued to the resident and not the carer and the permit is only valid for use in the street (in some cases nearby neighbouring streets) where the resident lives.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The County Council has the necessary legal powers to operate parking enforcement through the Traffic Management Act 2004 and introduce or amend orders to designate waiting restrictions, parking bays and residents' parking through the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

6 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 There was a wide scale response to the advertisement of the proposals, which have been modified in light of comments and objections received, balancing the differing needs of the community as best possible.
- 6.2 The introduction of parking controls can help improve road safety, reduce obstructive parking and improve sight lines at junctions and accesses. Resident permit parking helps those residents find parking spaces near to where they live, particularly those with limited or no off street parking.

7 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 7.1 Where agreed, residents' parking schemes will be introduced by the summer of 2013. Residents in these areas will be contacted prior to schemes 'going live' in order to arrange permits.
- 7.2 Phase 2 of the review of on-street parking in Haslemere will take place alongside the 2013 Waverley parking review. This will include an assessment of the impact of any schemes that are introduced as part of phase 1 and consultation, as appropriate, both with residents within phase 1 permit schemes and those who may be interested in also having schemes as part of phase 2. A report on the outcome of the assessment and review will be presented to a future meeting of the Local Committee.

7.3 Phase 3 of the of on-street parking in Haslemere will involve the County Council working with Waverley Borough Council and Haslemere Town Council and other appropriate stake holders to look at longer term issues around the levels of traffic and parking demand in Haslemere. This will consider the effects of future residential developments in and near the town, the potential increase in commuter parking and possibilities for increasing the amount of off street parking available in Haslemere.

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