

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO APPEALS & COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

20 JULY 2012

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TRINITY GARDENS AREA, STOCKTON-ON-TEES (RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING SCHEME) ORDER 2012

1.0 SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' views on an unresolved objection received following the statutory advertising of a proposal to implement a Residents Permit Parking Scheme for the Trinity Gardens Area, Stockton on Tees to protect residents from commuter parking.

It is not considered appropriate for the Head of Technical Services to consider the objection as he would be effectively reviewing his own decision.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- (i) Members give consideration to the objection raised by Mr Shakeel Noor and also to the comments of the Head of Technical Services.
- (ii) The local Ward Councillors and the objector be informed of the Committee's recommendation.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 A feasibility study for a Resident's Permit Parking Scheme that covered the residential area of Parkfield, Stockton to the south of Yarm Lane was originally conducted in 2006. Initially, the study considered Westbourne Street, Lawrence Street, Shaftesbury Street and Outram Street to the west of Bowesfield Lane in addition to Lightfoot Grove, Trinity Street, Westcott Street and Parliament Street to the east. However the parking survey indicated that there were sufficient spare parking spaces through the working day on those streets to the west of Bowesfield Lane. As the scheme would only operate during the working day, there was no requirement for resident's permit parking in this area.
- 3.2 In June 2007, a Residents Permit Parking Scheme was proposed for the Trinity Gardens area of Stockton Town Centre only. The streets covered within the original scheme were Lightfoot Grove, Trinity Street, Westcott Street and Parliament Street. The results of the public consultation found strong opposition from Westcott Street residents and a 50/50 split in Trinity Street. Ward Councillors did not support the progression of the scheme as it would not provide sufficient parking spaces for all residents. A decision was approved not to progress this scheme further.

- 3.3 The Council has continued to receive complaints from residents regarding commuter parking in this area, in particular on Parliament Street, Bickersteth Close and Lightfoot Grove. Concerns have also been raised about the potential impact that the new Mosque, currently under construction on Bowesfield Lane, will have on the available parking for local residents. In consultation with Local Ward Councillors it was agreed that a number of measures including a Residents Parking Scheme, which would also incorporate the area to the south of Parliament Street, would be reconsidered.
- 3.4 Parking surveys have been conducted and have confirmed that there is a commuter parking problem, particularly on Parliament Street and Bickersteth Close. These parking surveys were conducted between 7.30am and 5.30pm. It is felt that whilst other roads were not found to be as heavily parked during the week day, these roads could be affected by the proposals if they were not included in the scheme as any displaced vehicles would merely move into these areas to park.
- 3.5 A public consultation exercise was undertaken with all affected properties within the proposed zone, and a total of 77% of residents who responded were in support of the proposals to implement a Resident's Permit Parking Scheme in this area. However, a number of concerns were raised regarding the times of operation of the scheme (8am – 6pm Monday to Saturday). The majority of the residents of Westcott Street were in opposition to the proposals. Therefore, following further consultation with Westcott Street residents and taking into account the previous opposition from residents to a Resident's Permit Parking Scheme, the proposed scheme was approved to proceed 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday without the inclusion of Westcott Street (See Scheme of Delegation Reports TS.T.94.10 & TS.T.114.10 in **Appendix 1**).
- 3.6 A Notice for the proposed scheme was advertised in the Stockton edition of the Herald & Post, which all properties in the area receive, and on site on 1 March 2012 with the objection period expiring on 23 March 2012. Following the publication of the Statutory Notices, the Director of Law and Democracy formally received two letters of objection, though one objector has subsequently withdrawn. Copies of the outstanding objection and a location plan are attached as **Appendix 2**. It should be highlighted that there was no formal objection to the proposed legal Order by any affected resident within the proposed zone.

4.0 DETAILS OF THE OBJECTION

Mr Shakeel Noor

The two main reasons for his objection, dated 22 March 2012, (**Appendix 3**) were:

- 4.1 The proposal for the implementation of 24 waiting restrictions on the eastern side of Bowesfield Lane between Parliament Street and Cecil Street would remove parking opportunity for people accessing the businesses on Bowesfield Lane.

Response

Bowesfield Lane is adopted public highway and as such no one has a specific right to park on street unless there are marked formal designated parking bays. On street parking is generally tolerated unless it is causing an obstruction to traffic flow, pedestrian movement or is creating a road safety hazard.

The proposal to extend the 24 hour Waiting Restrictions on Bowesfield Lane, adjacent to Ellicott Walk to its junction with Cecil Street, is in response to residents' concerns regarding double parking on Bowesfield Lane. Double parking in this area not only restricts the traffic flow, but also access to the northbound and southbound bus stops that are situated on Bowesfield Lane in the area between Parliament Street and Cecil Street.

Parking would however remain unrestricted on the western side of Bowesfield Lane in the vicinity of the businesses south of Edward Street. There is also a Council owned off-street car parking area situated on Northcote Street which offers free car parking opportunity less than 100 metres from the businesses on Bowesfield Lane.

- 4.2 Once the Residents Permit Parking Scheme is in operation the commuter parking problem will merely migrate to areas such as Bowesfield Lane, Westbourne Street and Edward Street.

Response

Following the implementation of any such Resident Permit Parking Scheme, the Council would carry out repeat parking surveys to measure its impact and determine whether commuter parking has been displaced into roads outside of the scheme. Should it be found that problems have been displaced, the scheme would be reviewed and consideration given to additional measures or amendments to discourage displaced commuter parking for the benefit of local residents.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost of the signing, lining and minor civils works, is £12,000, the cost of the remaining statutory advertisement is estimated at £1,800, giving a total cost of £13,800 to be funded from the 2012/13 Residents Parking Schemes budget within the 2012/13 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme.

6.0 POLICY CONTENT

The Council's Parking Policy was approved by Cabinet in November 2004 as part of the business case application for the take up of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement powers. The proposals to control commuter parking in residential areas are consistent with the Local Transport Plan and The Sustainable Communities Strategy.

7.0 CONSULTATION

As noted above, the Officers' Traffic Group (Item no 112/99), Ward Councillors, Head of Service and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport were also consulted. Statutory consultations involving advertising on site and in the local press were undertaken; this resulted in one outstanding objection being received. The objector will be invited to the Appeals Committee.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The desire for a Residents Permit Parking Scheme in the proposed area has been identified via a consultation exercise, the required two thirds of residents in the proposed zone in support of the scheme was achieved.

It is requested that the Committee recommend the objection is over-ruled and the Residents Permit Parking Scheme is implemented as proposed.

Corporate Director of Development and Neighbourhood Services

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Environmental Implications

The measures proposed should ensure a safe and attractive environment for local residents.

Community Safety Implications

Addresses parking issues and neighbour dispute concerns amongst the local community, and addresses congestion issues and road safety concerns relating to obstructed intervisibility caused by on-street parking.

Background Papers

SD.T.386 Residents Parking Zone Scheme selection
SD.T.421 Residents Parking Scheme in Trinity Gardens / Parliament Street area
Scheme of Delegation Reports TS.T.94.10 & TS.T.114.10

Education Related Item?

No

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Stockton Town Centre : Councillors D Coleman and P Kirton