

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda

Item No.

**Report of Corporate Director for Place
to
Traffic & Parking Working Party and
Cabinet Committee
on
16th June 2016**

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**The Greenways – Residents’ Permit Parking Scheme Update
Portfolio Holder – Councillor Tony Cox
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Traffic and Parking Working Party and the Cabinet Committee to consider detailed background to the initial Member’s request for a Residents Parking Scheme in the Greenways and agree the way forward.

2. Recommendation

2.1. That the Traffic and Parking Working Party and the Cabinet Committee:-

- a) **Note Officers comments in para 4.1 and recognising the safety of children and parents in the vicinity of the school, agree to advertise the proposal to introduce a Residents’ Parking Scheme(RPS) in The Greenways, covering 8am to 5pm, Mondays to Fridays;**
- b) **If approved, further agree that in the event of there being no objections to the proposals, officers implement the scheme;**
- c) **Note that all unresolved objections will be referred to the Traffic & Parking Working Party/cabinet Committee for consideration.**

3. Background

- 3.1 A Member’s request was considered at the Traffic & Parking Working Party/Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 10th March 2016. Members of the committee deferred this item pending further clarifications. The issues raised were particularly in relation to the consultation by ward members on the basis that there will be no cost to the permits which may have led to a much higher degree of support for the proposals (67%). This was seen as a major deviation from the current policy as all permits currently are at a reasonable cost. It was felt that further clarification/information is needed before approving any recommendations in this regard.
- 3.2 Officers have liaised with ward members and this report attempts to provide additional information as requested to assist the committee in their decision in this regard.

4. Assessment against the policy and the latest situation

- 4.1 The Traffic & Parking at its meeting on 4th January 2016 reviewed existing policies and procedures to ensure future policies are efficient, effective and enable improvements to make better use of the financial and staffing resources in investigating, prioritisation and progressing future parking/traffic schemes. Section 2(1) of the agreed policies in this regard states: *“parking controls and residents permit schemes can be introduced in a single road or immediate area where school parking presents serious danger to children and parents. Such schemes are only to be implemented on an exceptional basis with the agreement of all ward councillors who will ascertain degree of support for such scheme that meets the policy thresholds for the Parking Management Schemes. The impact of any displaced parking in neighbouring roads will be a consideration by the ward Members. Safety restrictions of this nature may also be developed if there are at least three personal injury accidents within the proximity of school caused by parked vehicles”*.
- 4.2 As reported at 10th March 2016 meeting, ward councillors support this scheme and have undertaken initial consultation in The Greenways which involved consulting 37 Properties in total, of these 25 responded (67% response). Of these responses, 24 are shown support for the proposals to introduce permit parking controls (96%). However a number of comments indicated that the proposals were supported as long as there is no charge for permits.
- 4.3 With regard to accidents at this location, our records show that there have been no accidents along the Greenway during the last three years period. However, there have been various complaints and internal discussions with the school and the Council staff/members as there is a perception that indiscriminate parking at this location is presenting a safety hazard to children and parents visiting the school.
- 4.4 The Committee is aware that the current parking policy on residents' parking requires an areawide approach (except streets around schools). This was introduced as single street parking controls lead to displacement of the parking problems on streets nearby, resulting in complaints from the residents in those streets, necessitating extension of the parking controls on a piecemeal basis which deviates from the wider parking management objectives and is costly. Furthermore, to-date all parking management schemes have been introduced on the basis of a reasonable cost of the permits as determined by the Traffic & Parking Working Party. Provision of free permits will also set precedent and may have financial consequences in future.
- 4.5 Since the decision of the Traffic & Parking Committee on 10th March 2016, ward councillors have undertaken further consultation with residents. The issue of cost of the permit has been discussed with the residents and officers have been informed by ward councillors that on the basis that residents will need to pay for any parking permit, the level of support for a Residents Parking Scheme (RPS) remains the same. However, the residents have suggested that the permit parking should cover 8am to 5pm from Mondays to Fridays.
- 4.6 Members are asked to note that the new policy on residents' parking whilst requires areawide proposals; it does allow some room for exceptions around

schools. This is as a result of acknowledgement of the parking and safety issues around the schools. Single street residents' permits are not ideal as these move parking problems to the surrounding streets in the area. However, the non-residential parking at this location is largely attributed to school staff and it is expected that the proposed restrictions will force most of the parking to move to the Southchurch East car park where there is well lit, safe and controlled parking provision for school staff.

- 4.7 Members are asked to agree to implement the proposal based on the latest information provided by the ward councillors.
- 4.8 All schemes approved by the Traffic & Parking Working Party/Cabinet Committee are added to the on-going work programme for implementation unless members have indicated a higher order of priority.

5. Other Options

- 5.1 If this proposal is not approved status quo will remain. However, officers will continue to work with the school to encourage their staff to better utilise the car park at Southchurch East at to reduce parking stress on the Greenway.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 Where recommended the objective is to mitigate for likelihood of traffic flows being impeded, to improve safety or better manage parking.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

- 6.1.1 Ensure the highway network is effectively managed contributing to a Safe and Prosperous Southend.

6.2 Financial Implications

- 6.2.1 Where recommended, the source of funding will be from allocated budgets, where funding is provided from alternative budgets, this is highlighted as appropriate.

6.3 Legal Implications

- 6.3.1 The formal statutory consultative process will be completed in accordance with the requirements of the legislation where applicable.

6.4 People Implications

- 6.4.1 Staff time will be prioritised as needed to investigate, organise the advertisement procedures and monitor the progress of the proposals based on the committee priorities.

6.5 *Property Implications*

6.5.1 None

6.6 *Consultation*

6.6.1 Formal consultation will be undertaken including advertisement of the proposal in the local press and on the street as appropriate.

6.7 *Equalities and Diversity Implications*

6.7.1 The objectives of improving safety takes account of all users of the public highway including those with disabilities.

6.8 *Risk Assessment*

6.8.1 Neutral.

6.9 *Value for Money*

6.9.1 All works resulting from the scheme design are to be undertaken by term contractors appointed through a competitive tendering process.

6.10 *Community Safety Implications*

6.10.1 All proposals are designed to maximise community safety through design, implementation and monitoring.

6.11 *Environmental Impact*

6.11.1 All proposals are designed and implemented to ensure relevant environmental benefits are attained through the use of appropriate materials and electrical equipment to save energy and contribute towards the Carbon Reduction targets where appropriate.

7. **Background papers**

10th March 2016 – T & P – Members' Requests Report