

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Place
To
**Traffic & Parking Working Party & Cabinet
Committee**
On
13th March 2014

Report prepared by:
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Management and Road Safety Team

Woodfield Park Drive, Leigh On Sea- Verge Hardening Petition
Executive Councillor: Councillor Cox
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of a petition received from residents of Woodfield Park Drive with 62 signatories representing 60 properties requesting that the verge be hardened to accommodate parking.

2. Recommendation

That the Traffic & Parking Working Party and Cabinet Committee:

- (i) **Note the petition and thank the residents for taking the time to compile the petition ; and,**
(ii) **Note officers' comments and agree to add this road to the works programme for prioritisation (funding permitting) during the coming financial year in accordance with a decision of this Committee in October 2013.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The verges on the eastern side of Woodfield Park Drive were hardened to accommodate parking a considerable time ago.
- 3.2 In 2011/12, as part of the verge protection works, signage was installed on the western side verges advising that parking on verges was prohibited and requiring that vehicles are parked fully on the carriageway.
- 3.3 The petitioners state that by adhering to this requirement, vehicles are being damaged as the remaining carriageway is not wide enough to accommodate parking and maintain adequate width for larger vehicles to pass parked vehicles without causing damage. Photographs of larger vehicles using the road are shown in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.4 The petitioners request that the remaining verges are hardened to resolve this issue.

- 3.5 Communication has also been received from two residents concerned over the removal of verges, the impact on the street scene, impediments to pedestrians and additional pressure to the existing drainage systems.
- 3.5 Members may be aware that the issues relating to narrow roads and verge damage were discussed at this meeting on 31st October 2014 resulting in an agreement that funding would be sought from the Local Transport Plan budget allocations to introduce a verge hardening programme.
- 3.6 Members also agreed that requests for roads to be considered should be compiled and reported for prioritisation in the new financial year.
- 3.7 Members are asked to note that if potential verge hardening projects are agreed, it is recommended that a process be created whereby residents are consulted and that;
- (a) A response rate for the percentage of returned questionnaires is set.
 - (b) A support rate is set to ensure the majority of respondents agree with the removal of grassed verges.

This will ensure that the majority of residents support the removal of the verges.

4. Other Options

- 4.1 Other options that may be considered are to not agree to the petitioners' request. However, Members have requested that consideration be given to hardening verges in streets where a benefit will result.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 To reflect the decision of this Committee to consider requests for verge hardening works.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

- 6.1.1 Local Transport and Implementation Plan, Safe and Prosperous.

6.2 Financial Implications

- 6.2.1 Works would be undertaken within allocated capital budgets.

6.3 Legal Implications

- 6.3.1 None.

6.4 People Implications

- 6.4.1 Existing resources would progress projects.

6.5 Property Implications

- 6.5.1 None.

6.6 Consultation

6.6.1 In order to ensure support for the project, it is recommended that residents are consulted as detailed in 3.7.

6.7 *Equalities and Diversity Implications*

6.7.1 The prioritisation of the Councils' Working Party's programme is on the basis of reducing accidents or improving traffic flows. The objectives of improving safety takes account of all users of the public highway.

6.8 *Risk Assessment*

6.8.1 None.

6.9 *Value for Money*

6.9.1 Projects are undertaken by contractors procured using a competitive tendering process therefore demonstrating value for money.

6.10 *Community Safety Implications*

6.10.1 The prioritisation of the Councils' Working Party's programme is on the basis of reducing accidents or improving traffic flows and takes into account the implications for community safety.

6.11 *Environmental Impact*

6.11.1 Verges generally remove surface water from footways acting as a soakaway and their removal could result in the requirement for additional drainage.

7. **Background Papers**

7.1 None

8. **Appendices**

8.1 Appendix 1 – Photographs of larger vehicles in the road.