

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director of Enterprise, Tourism and
the Environment

to

**Traffic and Parking Working Party and
Cabinet Committee**

on

22nd February 2010

Agenda
Item No.

Report prepared by: Cheryl Hindle-Terry, Team Leader
(Demand Management)

Parking on Grassed Verges
Executive Councillor: Councillor Waite
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

For the Traffic and Parking Working Party and Cabinet Committee to agree to advertise Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders at the locations detailed to prohibit parking on grassed verges.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Committee agree to advertise the Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders

And

- 2.2 Results of the Orders are reported to a future meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1 Parking on grassed verges is prohibited under section 6 of The Essex Act 1987 and until recently, enforcement was only possible by way of Court action. Such action is subject to high evidence requirements along with substantial costs therefore enforcement of this offence has not been undertaken for some time.

- 3.2 In April 2008 The Traffic Management Act decriminalised the offence allowing enforcement to be undertaken by issue of Penalty Charge Notice however the requisite contravention code (a nationally issued and controlled code to identify parking contraventions) has not been made available and is not expected in the near future.

- 3.3 Complaints regarding parking on grassed verges are increasing, the damage caused by this practice can be seen in many streets and leads to an untidy and uncared for appearance in the streets and can also create a hazard by dragging mud onto footpaths and roads.

- 3.4 It is possible to implement a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit this practice and it is suggested that this is undertaken experimentally to enable adequate monitoring and any required amendments.
- 3.5 following discussion it is suggested that the area around Heycroft School and also the section of Woodgrange Drive between Elizabeth Road and Liftsan Way be subject to the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order.

4. Other Options

- 4.1 Do Nothing
- 4.2 Repairing verges while not implementing action to avoid further damage can be seen to be a waste of time effort and funding. By implementing controls to prevent further damage we will be able to undertake the repairs and reinstate verges. By taking no action we will be wasting valuable resources in undertaking necessary repairs.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 To reduce damage to the highway

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

If progressed the proposals prevent damage leading to a pleasant street scene and a reduction of potential hazards.

- 6.2 Financial Implications

Costs for the proposals are funded through existing budgets

- 6.3 Legal Implications

The formal statutory process will be undertaken.

- 6.4 People Implications

Staff time as required to organise and monitor the required works, will be met from existing resources.

- 6.5 Property Implications

None

- 6.6 Consultation

The consultation process is set by statute.

7. Background Papers

None

8. Appendices

None