## CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE

#### 18 March 2013

Attendance:

Councillors:

Weston (Chairman)
Humby (Chairman for the meeting) (P)

Godfrey (P) Tait (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Hiscock

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Nelmes

### 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED:

That in the absence of the Chairman (Councillor Weston) Councillor Humby be appointed as the Chairman for this meeting only.

#### 2. MINUTES

The Committee noted that the name 'Miss C Turner' from Winchester BID should be corrected to 'Miss C Turness'.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held 25 February 2013, be approved and adopted.

#### 3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr B Taylor, Miss McCullagh, Dr G Barrett and Mr T Saville spoke during the public participation period and their comments are summarised below.

# 4. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER: ABBOTTS BARTON AREA, WINCHESTER

(Report CAB2448(TP) refers)

Councillor Godfrey declared a disclosable pecuniary interest due to his role as a County Council employee. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, he remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure acknowledged that the support for residents' parking permits was largely from the southern part of the Abbotts Barton area, rather than in the northern areas. However, experience in other parts of Winchester had highlighted that if restrictions were only applied to the southern area, current non-resident vehicle parking was likely to be displaced to the less affected areas. He explained that the issues in Abbotts Barton related mainly to commuter parking. It was anticipated that the introduction of residents' parking permits, together with single and double yellow lines as appropriate, would address this problem and also improve traffic safety.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure stated that a petition had been submitted requesting that the restricted hours be between 11am and 2pm only (as contained as Appendix G to the Report). However, to improve Officers' ability to monitor and consequentially the enforceability of the Order in practice, he was proposing this be altered to between 10am and 2pm only. It was considered that this was a reasonable compromise, as a resident was likely to be required to purchase a permit to continue to park in the area during the day under either scenario.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Hiscock (a Ward Member for the area) highlighted that the requirement to address commuter parking in the southern parts of the area had first been raised about five years ago. He emphasised that the petition requesting the restricted hours of 11am to 2pm only had been signed by approximately 75% of Abbotts Barton residents and believed that the hours suggested should be sufficient to deter regular commuter parking. He agreed that restrictions should be introduced for the whole area, otherwise there was a risk that existing non-resident parking would be displaced to non-restricted areas. Finally, Councillor Hiscock welcomed the introduction of parking restrictions at crossing points to improve sight lines and road safety.

During the public participation period, four members of the public addressed the meeting and their comments are summarised below.

Mr B Taylor (a resident of Francis Gardens) advised that he was in principle opposed to the introduction of residents' parking in Abbotts Barton and believed that the consultation had been inadequate as it

had not made clear the cost to residents of purchasing a permit. However, if the scheme was introduced, he requested that the proposal to introduce single yellow lines outside numbers 10 to 18 Francis Gardens be replaced by residents' parking bays, to enable residents to continue to park outside their properties. He considered that the road was of a sufficient width to allow this. Finally, he queried whether the commuters parking in the area had been consulted.

In response, the Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that the consultation had referred to the cost of permits at an initial stage, and this information was also highlighted via links to the Council's website. Notices on site would have made commuters aware of the proposals and discussions had also been held with Winchester BID and some of the larger employers situated nearby.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that he could reexamine the possibility of introducing more parking bays along Francis Gardens, as suggested by Mr Taylor.

Ms McCullagh (a resident of Francis Gardens) also spoke in opposition to the proposal to introduce residents' parking permits across the whole Abbotts Barton area, stating that only about 50% of residents were in favour of this. However, if the scheme were to be introduced, she would prefer the proposed 11am to 2pm only restriction. She also believed that the cost of permits had not been adequately emphasised in the consultation and a decision should be deferred until proposals for new housing in Abbotts Barton had been agreed.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that the results of the original consultation with residents had resulted in an approximately 50:50 split between those against and those in favour, generally along a north/south divide of the Abbotts Barton area. However, if a decision was deferred, a scheme might not be able to be reconsidered for another three or four years, with additional cost implications. Further, he advised that within Francis Gardens there were around 30 properties, of which 8 had registered objections.

Dr G Barrett (a resident of Knight Close) spoke in support of the proposals and emphasised the difficulties to residents caused by the large number of commuters using the area to park during the week. He considered that this resulted in an increased risk of accidents due to loss of sight lines etc.

Mr T Saville agreed that the problems related to commuter parking and believed that other local authorities had introduced one hour restricted parking slots to address this. If this was not possible, he requested that the residents' preference for restrictions only between 11am and 2pm be supported. He believed that this shorter period would allow some residents to avoid having to pay for permits. In addition, he requested that the proposals for the area outside

57 to 67 Chaundler Road be altered to allow residents' parking bays.

During discussion, the Head of Access and Infrastructure clarified that it was possible in principle to introduce a one-hour only restriction. However, he considered that the resources necessary to enforce this could reduce flexibility and provision of a parking enforcement service in others areas of Winchester.

The Head of Legal Services advised that if alterations to the schedules and plans as advertised (attached as Appendices H and J to the Report) were considered substantial, then the Council would be required to carry out further consultation with those residents it considered to be affected by the modifications. In his view, the alterations proposed should be regarded as substantial.

During discussion, Members agreed that they could not support the Report's proposals as set out and that these should be altered to reflect the concerns of Ward Councillors and residents, as set out above and contained as Appendices to the Report.

The Chairman thanked local residents, Ward Councillors and Officers for their input into the consultations carried out to date.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the Report.

#### RESOLVED:

- 1. That the principle of introducing waiting restrictions, as detailed on the revised schedules and plans attached as Appendices H and J to the Report, be agreed, subject to the following changes:-
- (i) The hours of operation for parking bay restrictions be one hour waiting 11am to 2pm Monday to Friday (and not 10am to 2pm as suggested in the report);
- (ii) Permit parking in bays on both sides of Francis Gardens between numbers 10 and 18 (replacing a proposal single yellow line restriction), subject to the Head of Access and Infrastructure being satisfied that the road width is adequate;
- (iii) Permit parking in bays on both sides of Francis Gardens between numbers 2 and 8 Francis Gardens, subject to the Head of Access and Infrastructure being satisfied that such bays can be accommodated on the road;

- (iv) Permit parking in bays outside 57-67 Chaundler Road. subject to the Head of Access and Infrastructure being satisfied that such bays can be accommodated on the road.
- 2. That the Head of Access and Infrastructure be authorised to consult on the modifications to the original advertised proposals, in accordance with the statutory requirements.
- 3. That following such further consultation, the final decision on the making of the Order be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport in accordance with the Portfolio Holder Decision Notice scheme, or by the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee as appropriate.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.35am.

Chairman

