

DECISION TAKER: CLLR TOD (CABINET MEMBER FOR SERVICE QUALITY & TRANSFORMATION), ON BEHALF OF CLLR MURPHY (CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT)

REPORT TITLE: HIGHCLIFFE PARKING RESTRICTIONS

13 JANUARY 2020

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WARD(S): ST MICHAELS

PURPOSE

This report is to provide the necessary information for the Cabinet Member for Environment to make a decision on the Traffic Regulation Order proposals for the Highcliffe area of Winchester.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The revised proposal for changes to waiting and parking restrictions in the existing Zone X be introduced as detailed in Appendix 8 to this report.
2. The proposal for introducing waiting and parking restrictions in the proposed new Zone X2 be withdrawn.
3. The proposal for introducing waiting and parking restrictions in the proposed new Zone X3 be withdrawn and new proposals for double yellow lines be pursued.
4. In the event that recommendations 1 to 3 above are agreed that the traffic flow and parking within and within proximity to the area of the amended Traffic Regulation Order(s) be monitored, including in respect of bus service operations through the area.
5. The Service Lead - Legal be authorised to make the Order as set out in the revised Traffic Regulation Order Schedule set out in Appendix 8.

IMPLICATIONS:

1 COUNCIL STRATEGY OUTCOME

- 1.1 This proposal is in keeping with the draft Council Plan in attempting to improve traffic management, road safety and the environment.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The cost of implementing the proposal will be funded through the Traffic Management Agency Agreement with Hampshire County Council.
- 2.2 The cost of enforcement will be covered by existing parking office staff. There may be additional enforcement costs depending on the demand for enforcement of the Sunday residents permit parking restrictions. These restrictions are expected to be largely self-enforcing and existing staff should be able to manage this, however this will be monitored and reviewed if problems or significant complaints occur.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 enables a local authority to make orders in respect of parking controls for on-street and off-street parking inclusive of the ability to designate paying parking places. In the making of such an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 the Council must consider the interests of traffic, owners and occupiers of adjoining properties, and in particular, the need for maintaining free movement of traffic, the need for maintaining reasonable access to premises and the extent to which off-street parking is available in the neighbourhood.
- 3.2 The making of such a Road Traffic Order must comply with the procedure set out in the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996, which includes consultation and publication of the Order and consideration any objections received as a result of this process before deciding whether or not to make the Order.
- 3.3 Under these regulations a public inquiry is required if the proposal relates to the prohibition of loading and unloading of vehicles of any class in a road on any day of the week (i) at all times, (ii) before 0700, (iii) between 1000 and 1600 hours, or (iv) after 1900 hours and an objection has been made to the proposed order; or the order relates to the prohibition or restriction of passage of public service vehicles. As the proposals contained in this report do not fall into either of these categories, a public inquiry is not obligatory under the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996 if objections are received.

4 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 4.1 An area wide informal consultation was carried out with details sent to all residents in the Highcliffe/Zone X area. Area covered and copy of the letter sent is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Informal consultation results showed that there was significant support in the Highcliffe area for revised restrictions in the existing Zone X area and that there was sufficient support for new restrictions to be consulted on in the areas not currently included in the permit parking scheme.
- 4.3 The results were discussed with the Councillors for the area covered and initial proposals drafted.
- 4.4 A meeting of Highcliffe Community Forum was attended by Officers and all respective WCC and HCC Councillors for the area where the initial proposals were discussed. The proposals were generally well received although some comments were made which were subsequently incorporated in revised proposals.
- 4.5 The amended proposals were taken forward for comment by the local Members and supported by Councillors, the Head of Parking and the Police to proceed formally.
- 4.6 The proposed changes were advertised for formal comment on 10 April 2019. All residents in the area of the proposals were written to directly. Notices were posted on street throughout the whole Highcliffe area covered by the proposed changes, published in the Mid Hants Observer, placed on the Council's website and held on deposit in the City Office reception. All residents were also written to directly notifying them of the proposals. 36 responses were received in relation to the proposals, together with a 99 signature petition objecting to the proposed changes for Zone X2.
- 4.7 Summary of the representations and petition received are included as Appendix 5.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The proposal seeks to address existing parking issues for residents as well as mitigate potential problems with patrons of the new leisure centre development who many choose not to use the parking facilities at the leisure centre or the existing park and ride car parks.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 See table below:

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<i>Property</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Community Support</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Timescales</i> <i>Delayed timescale could increase the likelihood of more complaints – tie in with virtual permit scheme implementation to avoid unnecessary complications with issuing paper permits followed very shortly by new system.</i>	Introduction of restrictions should reduce complaints resulting from potential new and/or displaced parking caused by the new leisure centre.	
<i>Project capacity</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Financial / VfM</i>	See comments in main report.	
<i>Legal</i> <i>Judicial review of the Orders on the basis of incorrect procedures.</i>	Correct Statutory processes have been followed.	Introduction of Orders should increase the free flow of traffic within the relevant areas.
<i>Innovation</i>	N/A	N/A
<i>Reputation</i> <i>Potential parking and access problems caused by new leisure centre need to be addressed in advance of the leisure centre opening</i>	The introduction of restrictions should mitigate complaints.	
<i>Other</i>		

7 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 7.1 Workforce implications - enforcement of restrictions will be covered by existing parking office staff. Sunday restrictions may result in increased enforcement expectations which may need to be reviewed if problems or significant complaints occur.

8 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 8.1 For a number of years there have been a small number of complaints from residents of the Highcliffe area regarding commuter parking in the areas outside the permit zone as well as some complaints from residents in the controlled area following the opening of the sports stadium due to parking outside the restriction times and especially on Sundays.

- 8.2 A request to review the restrictions in the Highcliffe area had been on file for some time, however with the approval of the new leisure centre complex residents' concerns were greater and it was evident that new restrictions needed to be investigated. This was confirmed by a petition received signed by 162 residents requesting restrictions to be extended to include Sunday.
- 8.3 In line with normal TRO practise an area-wide informal consultation was carried out to establish whether there would be sufficient support from residents to pursue changes/new restrictions. See Appendix 1.
- 8.4 The consultation showed an overwhelming support for the restrictions in the existing Zone X area to be extended to 10pm and for the restrictions to be 7 days a week and include Sunday.
- 8.5 The results for the other areas of Highcliffe (proposed new Zones X2 and X3) were not as clear cut, but they did show a reasonable level of support. The results were discussed with the local Councillors who supported restrictions being advertised for the whole area. This would also address concerns regarding displaced parking and ensure the entire community was aware of the potential impact of the revised restrictions and cover any potential future complaints that the Council had not consider the impact of any small changes on the area as a whole.
- 8.6 More detailed draft proposals and plans were subsequently prepared and circulated to the local Councillors for further comments.
- 8.7 These draft proposals were also presented to a meeting of the Highcliffe Community Forum where additional comments were made which were again taken into account and amendments made accordingly.

Details of Proposal

- 8.8 The finalised proposals for the respective Zones X, X2 and X3 were submitted to Councillors, the Police and Head of Parking and CCTV for their approval to proceed formally, which was duly confirmed by all parties.
- 8.9 The proposals were advertised on 10 April 2019. Notices were posted on street in the immediate vicinity of the proposed changes, published in the Mid Hants Observer, placed on the Council's website and held on deposit in the City Office reception. All residents were also notified in writing of the proposal. See appendices 2, 3 and 4.

Responses to Formal Consultation

- 8.10 36 replies were received comprising 24 objections, 9 in support and 3 comments/questions. In addition to the individual replies a 99 signature petition against any restrictions being introduced in the suggested Zone X2 area was also received. See Appendix 5.

- 8.11 A further petition from 36 residents in Zone X2 in support of restrictions was received after the formal consultation deadline. This has been taken into account in the recommendations in the conclusion.
- 8.12 The main issues raised in the formal consultation were in relation to the impact of overspill parking from the new Leisure Centre which have been addressed by extending restrictions until 10pm. There was some support for extending the existing parking zone area but there were also some objections and overall it was felt that the proposal should be amended to remove the proposed extensions. This approach is supported by Ward Councillors.

Conclusion/Recommendations

- 8.13 The results of the formal consultation were circulated to all Councillors for the area and a meeting held to discuss and debate the options available. See Appendix 6.
- 8.14 It was agreed that revised restrictions should be introduced in Zone X to extend the permit parking restrictions to include Sunday, but to keep the existing single yellow line restrictions for the Canute Road area to provide flexibility for residents to park outside the restriction times for those without entitlement to permits and for other residents who use these areas due to the limited availability of permit parking space.
- 8.15 Revised proposals taking into account representations for Zone X. These effectively resolve the objections relating to the proposed restrictions for this location. See Appendix 7 and 8.
- 8.16 It was agreed not to introduce any new restrictions in the suggested Zone X2 area. This will resolve all objections received and the petition. This is contrary to the responses to the informal consultation, especially the replies from Nelson Road where restrictions were supported, but it is not practical to have an isolated island zone just for Nelson Road residents as this would create more problems than it would solve as there is not sufficient road space to accommodate all residents of Nelson Road to park their vehicles in Nelson Road alone.
- 8.17 It was agreed not to introduce permit holder restrictions for the suggested Zone X3 area, although it was agreed to pursue the introduction of new double yellow line restrictions on the north side of Petersfield Road to address the issues of visibility and access. This resolves the objections received, whilst proposed restrictions will ensure clear visibility and remove any potential obstructions.
- 8.18 It must also be noted that without restrictions being introduced in the Highcliffe area as a whole the Petersfield Road/Chalk Ridge location in isolation does not comply with the County's criteria for a residents permit scheme to be implemented as all properties have off street parking.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9.1 See summary above.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Cabinet/Committee Reports or Cabinet Member Decisions:-

None

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Copy of residents' Informal consultation letter

Appendix 2 – Copy of residents' Formal consultation letter

Appendix 3 – Plans of Proposals as advertised

Appendix 4 – Schedules of Proposals as advertised

Appendix 5 – Summary of Representations received to Formal Consultation

Appendix 6 – Notes of meeting with Councillors

Appendix 7 – Plan of Revised Proposals (Zone X only)

Appendix 8 – Schedule of Revised Proposals (Zone X only)