

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 23 JULY 2013

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO “CHANTRY” RESIDENT PERMIT PARKING SCHEME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: BISHOP’S STORTFORD MEADS

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To invite Members to consider officer recommendations in respect of objections received in respect of the above proposal.
- To secure Member agreement to the implementation of the scheme as amended.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE: That:

(A)	the representations and subsequent recommendations made by Officers in respect of objections received be considered, and
(B)	Officers be instructed to proceed with the implementation of the scheme as recommended in this report.

1.0 Background

1.1 The B7 Chantry Resident Permit Zone (RPZ) scheme was introduced in April 2012, covering 16 roads and approximately 650 properties. As part of a formal review process, the Council completed an assessment of the scheme amongst households within the RPZ in June 2013.

2.0 Report

2.1 The formal review of the implementation of the Chantry area RPZ resulted in resident satisfaction levels confirming that the scheme generally met or exceeded the expectations and needs of residents.

2.2 308 completed questionnaires were returned and analysed by parking consultants Mott MacDonald. The top review comments received were:

- 64 residents thought Sunday restrictions were excessive
- 63 residents thought the parking scheme was working well
- 37 residents thought the weekend restrictions were unnecessary
- 33 residents commented on cars parked on both sides of Lindsey Road / Barrels Down Road as dangerous or difficult to navigate

2.2 Willow Close

2.2.1 Willow Close is a cul-de-sac on the periphery of the B7 Zone. Residents were consulted in May 2011, through the advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order and 14 formal objections were received out of a total of 28 residential properties. The number of objections at this time provided no clear mandate and therefore the proposal did not progress. The Council gave a commitment to Willow Close residents to re-consult and an informal survey was undertaken in July 2012. 19 responses were received with responses as follows: for inclusion 10; against inclusion 8 and no view 1. The details of the objections are laid out in **Essential Reference Paper B**.

2.2.2 The 8 objections equate to 28.6% of households. Officers therefore recommend that the scheme is progressed. The Scheme will be formally reviewed by the council 6 months after implementation to ensure it fully meets the needs of all residents. If evidence at this time confirms the view that residents no longer wish to be part of the broader scheme, the current parking arrangements can be reinstated.

2.3 Lindsey Road

2.3.1 Concern regarding parking in Lindsey Road have been raised since the implementation of the RPZ with bays on both sides of the road. This design is successfully used in other Herts local authority areas. In order for it to operate efficiently it relies on motorists to self manage their parking to ensure sufficient space is available for vehicles to pass. The rationale for introducing parking bays (both sides) was to maximise parking for residents.

2.3.2 The current design has been challenged by the Fire Emergency Service. In the event that motorists part without consideration, access for Fire Engines in emergency situations might be compromised. A photograph has been presented to East Herts showing a fire engine and its inability to drive down the road.

2.3.3 An amendment to the scheme was therefore put forward to establish a double yellow line on one side of the road. A petition containing 35 signatures was submitted by a resident of Lindsey Road in response to the advertisement of this amendment. Combining this with the formal objections mean that 73% of residents in Lindsey Road are in favour of keeping the current scheme. There are concerns the area would become a 'rat run' with residents worried that vehicles will reach high speeds in the area. The details of the objections are laid out in **Essential Reference Paper B**.

2.3.4 Officers therefore recommend that the Council accede to the residents' objections and that the proposed amendments to Lindsey road are removed. However, given representations in respect of safety and their importance it is recommended that officers identify an alternative scheme for Lindsey road to address the concerns of residents about speed and the emergency services' concerns regarding access.

2.4 Other Amendments

2.4.1 In response to the other recommendations and suggestions from residents, parking consultants and East Herts Officers, a Traffic Regulation Order was advertised in April 2013, with improvement proposals to modify the scheme as summarised below (SYL = single yellow line and DYL = double yellow line):

- Bryan Road - change the SYL to DYL on the south side from Rye Street to the T- junction, extend the DYL outside the garage access and change the Order to reflect the DYL implemented on the western kerb-line instead of the proposed parking bays.
- Barrells Down Road - amend the Order to reflect the implemented layout of free limited waiting bays.
- Chantry Close - introduce permit holder only parking (informal consultation has shown majority support).

- Stane Close - DYL to be reduced at junction with Rye Street (3.5m agreed on site) and remove DYL in turning head where parking used to occur.
- Rye Street - amend permit parking and DYL to reflect implemented restrictions.
- Barrells Down Road - relocate entry signs to end of parking bay on east side at its most northern end.
- North Terrace - extend DYL on south side by 2m. (Already on site).
- Elm Road - add DYL outside garage of no. 14 and extend across new garages towards Barrells Down Road. Agreed 1m offset either side of access and create order to represent parking on west side implemented where DYL shown on plan.
- Change the hours of operation of the permit scheme on Sunday to 11am – 4pm.

2.5 Upon approval by Members, in terms of the scope of changes to the Resident Permit Parking scheme, it is anticipated that the necessary changes could be in place by September 2013.

2.6 It is East Herts policy to undertake a review approximately six months after a resident permit parking scheme has been implemented. The review process would only be applied to new roads introduced into the broader scheme in order to assess the effectiveness of new parking controls. Should support for parking controls at the review stage be assessed as unfavourable with low levels of support evidenced, the Council would seek to return the road to its original uncontrolled status. The mechanism for change would be through the advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 A Traffic Regulation Order was advertised on street and in the Bishop's Stortford Observer on 18 April 2013. The advertisement of an Order gives any interested party the right to object to the proposals within 21 days. After some concern was expressed from one resident in Willow Close, the Council informally extended the date for receipt of objection to Willow Close residents to Friday 7 June. By this date 19 objections in total had been received. A summary of these objections together with officer responses may be found in **Essential Reference Paper B**.

- 3.2 Members will note that of the 19 objections, 7 relate to Lindsey Road and 8 relate to Willow Close.
- 3.3 Officers have overruled 4 objections in relation to residents in Buntingford (X1), Chantry Close (X2) and Pinelands (X1), relating to the principle of charging, the cost of permits, the proposal to reduce the Sunday parking controls (not going far enough), the proposal to reduce Sunday controls (going too far), the Monday to Sunday restriction too onerous, infrastructure changes costly to implement and negatively impact on the environment in terms of unsightly lines.
- 3.4 A summary of the volume of objections by area is shown in **Essential Reference Paper C**.

Background Papers

Report on the Post Implementation Review (September 2012) Chantry Area (B7) Residents' Parking Scheme

http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/media/pdf/3/p/Chantry_Road_Consultation_Analysis_Report_Final.pdf

Contact Member: Cllr P Phillips – Executive Member for Economic Development
paul.phillips@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Neil Sloper – Head of Information, Parking and Customer Services
Contact Tel No – Ext. 1611
neil.sloper@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Dominique Kingsbury – Contract Manager
dominique.kingsbury@eastherts.gov.uk