

Central  
Bedfordshire  
Council  
Priory House  
Monks Walk  
Chicksands,  
Shefford SG17 5TQ



**TO EACH MEMBER OF THE  
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEETING**

17 November 2009

Dear Councillor

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEETING - Tuesday 24 November 2009**

Further to the Agenda and papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following additional report(s) which the Chairman has agreed to take as an urgent item of business:-

**8. Petition Requesting the Removal of Taxi Bays and  
Introduction of Residents Parking in Albion Street and  
Matthews Street, Dunstable**

The report proposes that the petition be noted and that the Portfolio Holder agrees to the removal of the Taxi Bays in Albion Street. In addition, the Portfolio Holder is requested to agree to a consultation with local residents on the provision of residents parking or other suitable alternative restrictions to control non residential on street parking with this being prioritised and included within the 5 year highways programme.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Democratic Services on Tel: 0300 300 4032.

Yours sincerely

Martha Clampitt,  
Democratic Services Officer  
email: [martha.clampitt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:martha.clampitt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

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**Meeting:** Traffic Management Meeting  
**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
**Subject:** Petition Requesting The removal of Taxi Bays and introduction of Residents Parking in Albion Street and Matthews Street, Dunstable.  
**Report of:** Basil Jackson  
**Summary:** The report proposes that the petition be noted and that the portfolio holder agrees to the removal of the Taxi Bays in Albion Street. In addition, the portfolio holder is requested to agree to a consultation with local residents on the provision of residents parking or other suitable alternative restrictions to control non residential on street parking with this being prioritised and included within the 5 year highways programme.

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**Contact Officer:** David Bowie  
David.Bowie@Centralbedfordshire.gov.uk  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** Dunstable Downs  
**Function of:** Council

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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<b>Council Priorities:</b>
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<b>Financial:</b>
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£2500 for the removal of the Taxi bays and extension to the existing restrictions.
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<b>Legal:</b>
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None from this report
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<b>Risk Management:</b>
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None from this report
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<b>Staffing (including Trades Unions):</b>
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None from this report
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<b>Equalities/Human Rights:</b>
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None from this report
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<b>Community Safety:</b>
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None from this report

**Sustainability:**

None from this report

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**that the report be noted and that the lead petitioner be informed that the taxi bays in Albion Street will be removed and that residents will be consulted upon a residents parking scheme or suitable alternative restrictions subject to prioritisation within the overall 5 year highways programme.**

**Background**

1. In March 2008 South Bedfordshire District Council refused retrospective planning permission for the continued use of 5 Albion Street, Dunstable as a Taxi Communication Centre. The Taxi Business had been in operation since about September 2007 and was the subject to an Enforcement Notice by the council.
2. An appeal was made by the applicant and determined by The Planning Inspectorate during April / May 2009. A decision was made on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 by the Inspectorate to dismiss the appeal, uphold the notice, and refuse planning permission.
3. Despite the refusal Taxis still operate from Albion Street and Matthew Street due to the waiting restrictions in place on both streets. These include 7am – 7pm 30mins waiting no return within 2 hours, 7am – 7pm 2 hours waiting no return within 2 hours and also a dedicated taxi bay in Albion Street. This places constraints on available on street parking for residents.
4. In addition, parking is also constrained by addition demand generated from compact residential developments and mixed use in both streets which include shops, offices, a restaurant, takeaway, and a public house.
5. The council has received two petitions regarding parking and nuisance by Taxi's. The first contains 17 signatures (8<sup>th</sup> June 2009) requesting the council to introduce residents parking and the other is a copy of a petition to Mr Kingsley Griffiths (owner of 18 Matthew Street) containing 6 signatures (24<sup>th</sup> August 2009) regarding the use of the ground floor office as a Taxi Communication Centre.
6. Officer observations undertaken in both streets acknowledge that there are parking pressures. A revision of the existing restrictions would undoubtedly be of benefit but a wider consultation with all locals in both streets will be required if a residents parking zone were to be considered.

7. Parking pressures could be eased in the short term by the removal of the Taxi bays in Albion Street and an extension of the existing restrictions 7am – 7pm 30mins waiting no return within 2 hours. In addition, both Matthew Street and Albion Street will be placed on the parking enforcement 'hot spot' list.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

8. The petitioners be informed that the taxi bays in Albion Street will be removed and that residents will be consulted upon a residents parking scheme or suitable alternative restrictions subject to prioritisation within the overall 5 year highways programme.

**Appendices:**

None

**Background Papers:**

Petitions

**Location of papers:** Priory House, Chicksands

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