
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 20 October 2009
Subject: Parking Issues - Station Road / Long Close, Lower Stondon.
Report of: Basil Jackson

Summary: The purpose of this report is to present results from a parking study carried out in accordance with the agreed recommendation at the Development Control Committee on the 16th September 2008, following receipt of a petition in February 2008 from local residents requesting the introduction of parking restrictions to help improve visibility when exiting Long Close on to Station Road, Lower Stondon.

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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Silsoe and Shillington
Function of: Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. that the
 - (a) The portfolio holder is requested to note the situation with regard to parking at Long Close.
 - (b) During this financial year double lines be introduced around the radii of the junction in accordance with Section 243 of the Highway Code (10m in both directions).
 - (c) A scheme to provide verge parking on Brittain's Rise be considered for the forward programme subject to policy. Officers should continue to monitor the parking situation at the junction as a result of the introduction of these restrictions.

Background and Information

1. A petition with 36 signatures by local residents was presented by Councillor Rita Drinkwater to the County Council meeting on the 14 February 2008.
2. A report was presented to the Development Control meeting on the 16th September 2008 (Appendix 1) requesting yellow lines at the junction of Station Road / Long Close to help improve visibility for motorists and pedestrians exiting Long Close.
3. The request was previously assessed by Bedfordshire Highways and was given a score of 8. This was then allocated into the low priority category (Low 1 - 10 points, Medium 11 – 35 points and High priority 35 + points) insofar as the forward programme was concerned.
4. Cllr Rita Drinkwater requested that a further study was undertaken on the area, with the intention of developing a full solution to the parking problem. This was accepted by Development Control Committee at their meeting in September 2008. (Appendix 2).

Information

5. Station Road is subject to a 30mph speed limit and provides access to several residential roads. Long Close is a private residential road.
6. The removal of parked vehicles along Station Road close to the junction with Long Close would improve access for motorists and improve visibility for motorist and pedestrians.
7. Site visits have taken place and investigations show that the problem is created by three distinct and different elements as follows:-
 1. The junction being in very close proximity to a tight horizontal bend in Station Road
 2. The sharp vertical rise in level approaching the junction from Long Close
 3. Parked vehicles on either side of the junction.

The Way Forward

8. A scheme to provide verge parking on Brittain's Rise and the introduction of double yellow lines at the junction of Long Close with Station Road is considered for the forward programme following the introduction of a parking policy.

9. The estimated cost of the works is £25 – 30k depending upon any necessary statutory diversions being needed.

Conclusion and Next Steps

10. Double lines should be introduced around the radii of the junction in accordance with Section 243 of the Highway Code (10m either direction). In addition, officers should continue to monitor the parking situation at the junction as a result of the introduction of these restrictions.
11. A Parking Policy document is currently in preparation for Central Bedfordshire Council and will be a matter for consultation with members later this year. That document will seek to produce policies that will be flexible enough to address the needs of individual communities or sectors of the community whilst maintaining the thrust of national policy in respect of demand management and responsible use of car parking.
12. Should a separate budget be identified, and subject to a policy being in place, this work could be included within the forward programme.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Sensible approach to parking demand management will assist public

Financial:

If the proposals are accepted by Central Bedfordshire Council there will be a capital cost of approximately £30,000 for the entire scheme, for the double yellow lines which are proposed at this time, the cost would be in the region of £3,000 - £5,000.

Legal:

None as a result of this report.

Risk Management:

None as a result of this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None as a result of this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

This report and recommendation does not have any implications under the Human Rights Act 1998.

Community Development/Safety:

None as a result of this report

Sustainability:

Parking controls may help encourage modal shift.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – A report presented to the Development Control meeting on the 16th September 2008.

Appendix 2 - Parking Study

Background Papers (open to public inspection):

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands