
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 6 July 2010
Subject: Petition – To Address the Issue of Commuter Parking in Mentmore Road Linslade
Report of: Basil Jackson Assistant Director Highways & Transportation.
Summary: The purpose of this report is to present a petition received from residents of the Mentmore Road area and to outline further actions proposed.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Leighton Central and Southcott
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

Approximately £2500 to undertake a parking study to be found from within existing budgets allocated in the current integrated work programme for Cycling Schemes

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:

None as a result of this report.

Community Safety:

None as a result of this report

Sustainability:

None as a result of this report

RECOMMENDATION:

The portfolio holder for safer communities and healthier lifestyles is requested to note the contents of the report.

Background and Information.

1. A petition of almost 100 signatures has been received from a resident of Mentmore Road seeking parking restrictions to alleviate parking congestion believed to be caused by commuters in Mentmore Road.
2. At a public exhibition for traffic calming proposals on adjoining Wing Road that was held earlier in the year in the White House in Leighton Linlade it was stated by several visitors that commuter parking was occurring regularly in Wing Road. This was a situation of which officers had not previously been aware.
3. The additional evidence from Mentmore Road therefore highlights that, whilst not immediately obvious, this appears to be an area that is sufficiently close to the rail station to make it popular with commuters seeking all day parking.
4. Currently there are no resources identified within the integrated scheme budget for the undertaking of area wide parking investigations.
5. There is a project in the current work programme to undertake a feasibility study on the possibility of creating a footway/cycle link from Stephenson's Close through the rail station car park. This is part of the ongoing cycle initiatives being undertaken in Leighton Linlade and is intended to promote more direct routes to the station and thus influence modal shift.
6. It is appreciated however that should this link be opened to pedestrians then that would increase the attractiveness of the area to potential commuter parkers even further. Part of the initial work will therefore be to undertake a parking study of the streets in the Wing Road and Mentmore Road area to attempt to ascertain a base level of parking by both residents and commuters.
7. It will then be possible to make some predictions on what effect this link may have on the levels of commuter parking. This information would then inform any possible parking regime that may be considered necessary for the area.
8. Currently Central Bedfordshire Council does not have an adopted Parking Policy that setting out the approach to different parking situations.
9. The outcome of the feasibility study for the footway/cycleway link should be known within 6 weeks and this will include the results of the parking study.

Conclusion and the way Forward

10. Should the link not proceed then it is unlikely that any parking scheme will be implemented. There is currently no budget within the work programme for the implementation of ad-hoc parking schemes.
11. If the scheme progresses any proposed parking scheme will have to be considered both in the context of the available scheme budget and the wider policy context and there are no guarantees that any changes to parking controls will be possible.
12. It is suggested that following this meeting the lead petitioner be kept informed of the progress and outcomes of the parking study and the future proposals.