
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 15 August 2011
Subject: Westfield Road, Dunstable - petition requesting parking restrictions
Report of: Basil Jackson, Assistant Director of Highways and Transportation.
Summary: To report to the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Services the receipt of a petition concerning a requested parking restriction in Westfield Road Dunstable.

Contact Officer: Colin Wilkinson
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Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Dunstable - Northfields
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

To initiate project spend according to the priorities in the Local Area Transport Plan.

Financial:

None as part of this report

Legal:

None as part of this report

Risk Management:

None as part of this report

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None as part of this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None as part of this report

Community Safety:

None as part of this report

Sustainability:

None as part of this report

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. The Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Services is requested to note the contents of the report.**

Background and Information

1. The Council received the attached petition, containing 18 signatures, on 23rd May 2011. It calls for additional parking restrictions on the odd numbered (south-east) side of Westfield Road in Dunstable. This was requested to be implemented at the north-eastern end of Westfield Road, near the Central Bedfordshire Council offices.
2. Westfield Road is a residential street, which links the A5 High Street North to other residential areas and Beecroft Lower School. On both sides it has mostly terraced houses, many of which have driveways. The road has wide grass verges on both sides, which are in places protected by wooden posts, but inevitably some verge parking takes place. There is a 7am to 7pm parking restriction on the bend to the west of the council offices, on both sides of Westfield Road.
3. Westfield Road has sporadic parking on both sides of the road, and through movements for vehicles is restricted if vehicles are parked on both sides close to each other. This is a similar problem to those experienced on many roads in Dunstable. However, contact with the Safer Community Police Team has established that parking problems in this part of Westfield Road have not been reported to the police.
4. The availability of any capital funding for requests of this nature is set in the context of the priorities in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis Local Area Transport Plan (LATP). These priorities have been agreed following consultation with the public and elected council Members, and have been adopted and published. In terms of allocating limited funding, parking problems were given a low priority and no programming in the LATP's first three years. The only works not included in this allocation, which can still be considered on a needs basis, are highways structural maintenance and safety works.
5. For any Traffic Regulation Order to be implemented, there would first need to be public consultation. It is clear from the petition that all the signatories live at even numbered addresses. If there was public consultation concerning this proposal, it is likely that the residents in odd-numbered houses would object, which would make the implementation of any restrictions problematic.
6. As mentioned in 3 above the Safer Community Police Team has not been made aware of parking problems on this part of Westfield Road. If requested, the team would look into the problem and advise on considerate parking. This could involve a leaflet drop along both sides on Westfield Road.
7. In summary, it is considered that the requested further parking restrictions should not be pursued at this time.

Appendices:

Appendix A - The petition

Appendix A

PARKING RESTRICTION

We the undersigned are petitioning for yellow lines in order to stop cars parking on the odd numbers side of Westfield Road. Recently, vehicles have been parking on this side, making it very difficult to pass when driving down the road, it causes an obstruction and in the event of a fire, a fire engine would not be able to pass through. This affects only the bottom end of Westfield Road, the half nearest to the Council offices.