
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 26 September 2011
Subject: **Petition – Residents Parking – Bedford Street, Leighton Buzzard**
Report of: Basil Jackson
Summary: The purpose of the report is to consider a petition with 18 signatures received by Central Bedfordshire Council requesting that a residents only parking scheme be introduced in Bedford Street, Leighton Buzzard

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Leighton Buzzard North
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

None as a result of this report

Legal:

None as a result of this report

Risk Management:

None as a result of this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

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

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(S):

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| <p>1. That the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities-Services is requested to note the contents of the report and agree that no further action pending the adoption of the Councils Approach to Parking document.</p> |
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Background and Information

1. A petition with 18 signatures was received by Central Bedfordshire Council. The petition was received from Sheltered Tenants Action Group in Bedford Street, Leighton Buzzard and has been signed by residents of Bedford Street.
- 2 The petition makes a request for the implementation of a residents only parking scheme in Bedford Street , Leighton Buzzard.

Additional Information

- 3 Bedford Street is a residential road within walking distance of the town centre of Leighton Buzzard
- 4 There is a mix of sheltered housing and private housing in the street and many of the residents are elderly.
- 5 It is the observation of residents that the volume of cars parked by non residents in the street make parking difficult for those residents that go out during the day and also make access difficult for others on foot and mobility scooters. On visual inspection this would appear to be the case.
- 6 It is often true that in residential streets close to town centres where there is a charge made for public off street car parking and where on street parking is controlled that retail workers and other long stay parkers will park within a reasonable walking distance if free on street parking is available. Generally if this is considered to be a problem it can be addressed by extending parking controls to a wider radius from the town centre.
7. Central Bedfordshire has criteria for the introduction of residents parking schemes and also makes a charge for the issue of permits. Currently the whole subject of parking in Central Bedfordshire is under review and the Council is about to issue a draft document on its Approach To Parking for wider consultation.
8. Once adopted by the Council this document will form part of the Council's Local Transport Plan suite of documents and will, in part, inform future decisions on parking requests.
9. It would therefore be premature to offer a final decision on the future of this request ahead of the adoption, as agreed following consultation, of the Approach to Parking document

Conclusions

10. It is therefore recommended that the lead petitioner be advised that the request will be kept on record and addressed following the consultation on and adoption of the revised Approach to Parking document.
11. It is also understood that in conjunction with this the Leighton Linlade Town Council is also currently considering seeking amendments to the parking controls in and around Leighton Buzzard and this will also need to be a factor in any further response to this request.

Appendices: Petition

Appendix A

Residents only parking scheme

Dear Sir

We the undersigned request that a "Residents only parking scheme" be adopted in Bedford Street.

The fact that we are only a minute walk from the town centre. Which means in the week workers that work in the town use our road as a car park and they park everywhere including on the corners. They block garages and they block the drop curbs. At weekends the street is the overflow parking for the three churches in the adjoining street that has restricted parking. Parking for Residents is a nightmare. If a resident of Bedford Street has for some reason (say a hospital appointment) needs to go out in their car on their return they are unable to find a parking space unless they return after 17.00hrs. The road is also used by motorists, like a speedway. They travel up and down it at excessive speeds. Speed humps should have been implemented ages back.

Bedford Street has a high number of elderly residents. A lot of the housing in the street is sheltered housing units. These elderly residents are in the most danger from the fast traffic in this small street. It should be pointed out however that even the private housing residents are having the same problems.

No. Number