
Meeting: Traffic Management Committee
Date: 4 June 2013
Subject: Residents' Petition and letters of support for a Residents Parking Scheme in Church Street & Segenhoe Close, Ridgmont.
Report of: Jane Moakes, Assistant Director of Environmental Services
Summary: The report provides Traffic Management Committee with details relating to a request made by the residents of Church Street and Segenhoe Close, supported by Ridgmont Parish Council to introduce a residents parking scheme. The report seeks the approval of The Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Services to consider including the request within the forward programme of traffic management (parking) schemes for future funding and implementation.

Contact Officer: David Bowie, Head of Service, Traffic Management
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Cranfield and Marston Moretaine
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

To improve highway safety, facilitate the free flow of traffic and improve the amenity of streets for residents.

Financial:

There is currently no budget allocation for the introduction of a residents parking scheme in Church Street and Segenhoe Close, Ridgmont. The introduction of a parking scheme for residents will require the advertising of a new Traffic Regulation Order and the provision of signs and road markings. The cost of this is estimated at £7k depending upon local surveys.

Legal:

Central Bedfordshire Council is the highway and traffic authority for the road network in Central Bedfordshire. An important function of the authority is to manage the local road network in a safe, efficient and equitable manner. To be legally enforceable, any proposed traffic management measures need to be implemented under a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

Risk Management:

Failure to deliver an efficient, effective and enforceable road network would be detrimental to the safe and expeditious use of the road network and could be damaging to the local community as well as economic growth.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None as part of this report.

Equalities/Human Rights:

Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Creating an attractive and accessible public realm has a part to play in getting people out and about. One objective of enforcing traffic restrictions is to ensure that the most vulnerable members of the community have fair access to the public realm. Disabled people, in particular, place a high priority on the provision and enforcement of disabled parking bays and the provision of dropped kerbs.

An efficiently managed parking system is therefore crucial for allowing equality of opportunity.

Community Development/Safety:

Inclusion of a residents parking scheme in Segenhoe Close and Church Street is likely to have a positive effect giving residents as fair opportunity to park within the street in which they live, particularly the elderly.

Sustainability:

None as part of this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That, following consideration of the matters advised within the report the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Services grants permission to include the request within the forward programme of traffic management (parking) schemes for future funding and implementation.

Background and Information.

1. Church Street is a relatively narrow residential cul-de-sac and is a side road off the High Street in the centre of Ridgmont village. On entry to Church Street there are residential properties on both sides of the carriageway. There are 12 properties in total all bungalows which were purpose built for the elderly and disabled.
2. Whilst Church Street and Segenhoe Close are residential streets there is a rear access in Church Street to the adjacent horticultural nursery. Visitors to the nursery frequently park in Church Street, particularly at the weekend, as do residents in neighbouring roads rather than use 'off street' parking provision provided. As a result the residents of the bungalows can have great difficulty parking their vehicles anywhere near their homes. This makes life difficult for those residents who are disabled or are elderly and infirm and cannot walk long distances to their homes.
3. All 12 bungalow residents have petitioned the council and have individually submitted letters of support for the council to consider the introduction of residents only parking controls. The details of the representations are provided at Appendix A to this report.
4. Ridgmont Parish Council has considered the concerns of their residents and is supporting the request for a residents parking scheme.
5. The option of introducing disabled bays as an alternative to a residents parking scheme has been considered. In order to achieve a satisfactory arrangement for those residents several disabled bays would need to be provided. This would limit available on street space for the other residents of the bungalows and as with any disabled parking space any blue badge holder is able to park in that space. From a cost perspective the provision of several disabled bays is likely to be equal to that of a simplified residents parking zone.
6. In the Parish Councils letter of support they are suggesting that the council should also include the provision of double yellow lines around the junction of the High Street and Church Street. This could easily be included in the Traffic Order for a residents parking scheme.
7. The estimated cost of the requested residents parking scheme with inclusion of double yellow lines at the junction of the High Street and Church Street is £7,000 depending upon local surveys.

Conclusions and Way Forward

8. That a simplified residents parking scheme with the inclusion of double yellow lines at the junction of the High Street with Church Street is approved for inclusion in the programme of traffic management schemes for future funding and implementation.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Residents' Petition

RIDGMONT PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Lyn Lyman
Lodge Cottage
School Lane
Husborne Crawley
Bedfordshire
MK43 0UY
Tel: 01908 584159
e.mail: clerkatridgmont@live.co.uk

David Bowie – Head of Traffic Management
Central Bedfordshire Council
Technology House
Amphill Rd
Bedford
MK42 9BD

11th March 2013

Dear David,

Parking in Church Street & Segenhoe Close, Ridgmont.

Following your recent conversations with our resident, Chris Warner and Councillor Alan Bastable, a further questionnaire was issued to all houses and bungalows in these areas as per your request. Enclosed are:

1. a copy of the covering letter delivered to each residence;
2. a copy of the pro forma delivered to each residence;
3. the original replies from those residents that returned their form;
4. copy of a late reply from a Segenhoe Close resident.

There are 8 bungalows in Church Street, 4 in Segenhoe Close (on the corners) and 8 houses. You will see that there is a 100% positive return from Church Street residents and a 58% return from Segenhoe residents all of whom support the scheme in Church Street but only 1 resident wants the parking scheme extended to include them. Irrespective of this, we do feel that additional parking should be included for 2 of the bungalows on the corners of Segenhoe Close and Church Street if possible.

The Parish Council are supporting this scheme whole-heartedly as the situation is getting worse as time progresses and we would like to ensure that the elderly and disabled living in the bungalows are afforded as much mobility as possible. As you are aware, Christine herself would like to have a vehicle, but cannot commit to one unless she can guarantee that she can park it outside.

In addition, the Parish Council has, in the past, requested that your department apply double yellow line parking restrictions on both corners of Church Street/High Street without success. We would like this to be included as part of the scheme as illegal parking of an evening and weekend is commonplace and sooner or later an accident will occur. (This is made even more

dangerous when there is snow or ice on the road, it is a complete blind spot for vehicles turning in from the Ampthill end of the street.)

We would be grateful if you would look at the original petition and the enclosed documents and put forward our proposal for this scheme. Whilst the Parish Council is backing this scheme we have no available funds to support it so we would need you to fund it on our behalf.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L C Lyman', written in a cursive style.

L C Lyman (Mrs).
Clerk to Ridgmont Parish Council.

Dear Resident,

Parking in Church Street has become a real issue for residents who are often faced with not being able to park their own vehicles (or those of their carers) because non-residents have parked there, particularly after 5.00pm and at weekends. Given that the bungalows were built with the specific purpose of housing elderly or disabled people this causes particular hardship. After much lobbying, the residents, with the support of our Councillor and the Parish Council, have succeeded in getting Central Beds Council (CBC) to look at the possibility of providing a residents only parking area in Church Street. Following a previous petition CBC are ready to look at such a scheme but are concerned that if it were to be provided that the residents in Segenhoe Close would want their own parking area too. If this is the case they want to look at both schemes jointly.

For a residents' parking area to be provided each resident wanting a parking space will need to pay for their space which is currently £70 for one space and £90 for a second space. We have been advised that CBC are currently looking at reducing these costs but we have to decide using the prices in effect today.

In order for the residents of Church Street and the Parish Council to proceed further with CBC we need to understand what the residents of Segenhoe Close want. For this reason could you please take a few minutes and complete the attached form (reverse) so that we can assess your position on this matter.

Thank you,

Chris Warner on behalf of Church Street residents
4 Church Street

Please complete this form using black ink.

NAME:

ADDRESS:
.....
.....
.....

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER:

I/We support the residents of Church Street in establishing their residents only parking area in Church Street. YES / NO*

As a resident of Segenhoe Close I/we would like our own residents only parking area in Segenhoe Close. N/A / YES / NO

I/We would like to purchase permits for parking spaces.

(* If you do NOT want to support a residents only parking area in Church Street please state your objections here:

.....
.....
.....)

SIGNED:

DATE: