
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders
Date: 18 February 2015
Subject: Petition, Windsor Avenue, Leighton Buzzard

Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways

Summary: This report updates Members on the petition from residents of Windsor Avenue about parking in their road and options to address the issue.

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

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

This work is being funded from the Council's budget for minor traffic and safety schemes and is expected to cost approximately £9,000.

Legal:

None from this report

Risk Management:

None from this report

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None from this report

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report

Community Safety:

None from this report

Sustainability:

None from this report.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That a proposal to introduce a residents' permit parking scheme operational from Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm be published and consulted on.**
- 2. That the existing No Waiting from Monday to Saturday 7am to 7pm (single yellow lines) at the junction of Windsor Avenue and Bassett Road be converted to No Waiting at any time (double yellow lines) and that they extend slightly further into Windsor Avenue than the existing single yellow lines.**

Background and Information

1. A petition was received from 103 residents, requesting the Council to undertake an investigation into parking problems in their road and present options to residents.
2. The petition was considered at the Delegated Decisions Meeting held on 11 August 2014. The decision of that meeting was as follows:-
 - a) It is recommended that double yellow lines be considered for the junction of Windsor Avenue and Bassett Road, and that they extend slightly further into Windsor Avenue than the existing single yellow lines.
 - b) It is recommended that waiting restrictions also be considered at the far southern end of Windsor Avenue.
 - c) A report, be brought to the next meeting in October, which considers options for the whole of Windsor Avenue to prevent dangerous parking.
3. Residents of Windsor Avenue have continued to report ongoing issues relating to obstructive on-street parking, mostly by non-residents, which appear to be getting increasingly worse. Officers have liaised with the petition organisers to determine what form of parking control would be appropriate to address these issues and what restrictions would be acceptable to residents.
4. The organisers have very helpfully conducted a local consultation exercise with all residents of Windsor Avenue. The consultation offered residents several options and the results were as follows:-

Option 1 – Yellow lines on selective lengths of road only – 0
Option 2 – Single yellow lines (am/pm type restriction) in whole road – 1
Option 3 – Residents permit parking zone – 65

Prefer no change – 3
Empty residences – 2
5. It is clear from the results that a large majority of residents would favour a residents permit parking scheme. Further communications have indicated that residents would be satisfied with a permit scheme that operates from Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm. They feel that parking controls are not essential during the evenings and weekends. They were also offered the option of a 1 or 2 hour permit-free period to allow for short stay visitor parking, but felt that this might lead to shoppers and other non-residents parking in Windsor Avenue.

6. Due to the apparent overwhelming support for residents' permit parking it is recommended that the Council proceeds on this basis. The permit zone would cover all of the adopted part of Windsor Avenue, except for a short length at the junction of Bassett Road, which would be covered by double yellow lines in the interests of road safety. There are some parking areas at the far southern end, which appear to have been provided for residents of Tudor Close. These are un-adopted, private parking areas and would, therefore, be outside of the scope of the permit scheme.

7. Members will be aware that there is a need to undertake the required statutory processes before any parking controls can be introduced on the highway. This involves the publication of notices and consultation with interested parties, including residents. This would give local people an opportunity to submit any formal representations that they might have. It is recommended that the required publication of notices and consultation be carried out immediately, so that any objections can be resolved at the earliest possible opportunity.

Appendix A

Proposed Residents Permit Zone and No Waiting at any time

