
Meeting: Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders

Date: 16 November 2015

Subject: Northview Road, Houghton Regis – Petition regarding On-street Parking

Report of: Paul Mason, Head of Highways

Summary: This report is to note the receipt of a petition submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and suggest a way forward.

Contact Officer: Nick Chapman

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Houghton Hall

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Financial:

There is no highways budget available to undertake any work at this location in the current financial year.

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):

It is recommended that the Executive Member for Community Services notes the petition and that the lead petitioner be informed that consideration could be given to on-street parking restrictions in the 2016/17 financial year if funding is available.

Background and Information

1. A petition was received from 16 residents of Northview Road, expressing concerns about the level of on-street parking in their road and asking for action to address the issue.
2. There are local concerns that Northview Road is being used for parking by non-residents, including those associated with the nearby Academy and residents of adjacent roads. Petitioners say that the level of parking creates difficulties for them driving on and off their driveways and has obstructed the movement of traffic. The police have previously been called to resolve parking disputes.
3. The Council is aware of parking pressures in the general area. In recent years a parking scheme was introduced in nearby Olma Road and Capron Road. This was intended to increase parking capacity in those roads by permitting partial footway parking. Residents were consulted on the possibility of introducing permit parking, but there was insufficient local support. In addition, the yellow lines in nearby Northfields were also reduced in length to accommodate more on-street parking. It is expected that these measures would have resulted in a slight reduction in the number of drivers parking their cars in Northview Road.
4. Some form of parking control may be feasible in Northview Road, but a full consultation exercise would be needed to determine the level of support for restrictions. Partial footway parking, such as has been used elsewhere, would probably not be feasible as the footways are generally not wide enough to accommodate half-on/ half-off parking. If there are a significant number of non-residents parking in the road, a permit parking scheme or similar may be a suitable solution, but would need strong support from local people.
5. The current budget for promoting on-street parking schemes is fully committed, but consideration could be given to undertaking the required consultation exercise in the new financial year providing funding is available.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Petition and covering letter

Appendix B – Location plan

Appendix C – Drawing showing current local safety scheme

Appendix A

Residents of Northview Road Petition

As Residents of **Northview Road** we suffer on a daily basis; parking in our road from non Residents. This regularly causes difficulty when entering and exiting our properties. Much of this congestion during the week is caused by staff and students of All Saints Academy, and Residents from neighbouring streets, who have parking restrictions in their roads, so they park in ours!

Evenings and weekends give us no respite from this, as again, residents from neighbouring streets use Northview Road to park their cars and other vehicles.

If you agree that we need to ask the Council and Parish Council to change the parking status of our road, by defining it as residents parking only, please sign below.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to present a petition from the residents of Northviw Road, regarding the large number of cars parked outside our homes which, at times can cause great difficulty when entering and exiting our properties.

Excessive parking in Northview Road, Houghton Regis, is a direct result of drivers leaving their vehicles in our road from neighbouring streets, and those who attend or work at All Saints Academy in Houghton Road.

As the road is congested most of the week and at weekends, residents have little respite from the congestion which does frequently cause interaction issues with drivers of the parked cars. On at least one occasion the police have attended to resolve some differences; on other occasions some drivers navigating the road have become frustrated when their path is blocked by trades vehicles delivering to customers homes. There is no way of passing the obstruction, resulting in long delays for these drivers.

Although some parts of our road can accommodate limited parking, it does need to be managed, and we, the residents would ask for your support in finding a workable solution which will help us all, visitors and residents alike.

Appendix B

