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**Meeting:** Delegated Decisions by the Executive Member for Community Services on Traffic Regulation Orders  
**Date:** 13 September 2016  
**Subject:** Graham Road, Dunstable – Consideration of Petition for Conversion of Grass Verges to Parking  
**Report of:** Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways  
**Summary:** This report is to note the receipt of a petition submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and suggest a way forward

**RECOMMENDATION(S):-**

**That the contents of the petition be noted and that the lead petitioner be informed of the outcome of the meeting.**

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**Contact Officer:** Paul Salmon  
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**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** Dunstable Manshead  
**Function of:** Council

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>
<p><b>Council Priorities:</b> The petition is in relation to the safe and efficient use of the highway network</p> <p><b>Financial:</b> None from this report</p> <p><b>Legal:</b> None from this report</p> <p><b>Risk Management:</b> None from this report</p> <p><b>Staffing (including Trades Unions):</b> None from this report</p> <p><b>Equalities/Human Rights:</b> None from this report</p>

**Community Safety:**

None from this report

**Sustainability:**

None from this report

**Background and Information**

1. A petition has been received, signed by 54 people, requesting the Council to convert the grass verges to parking areas. Due to the lack of parking in the road, drivers are parking on the verges as on-street parking would obstruct traffic. The verges are rutted, fill up with water and create a hazard to pedestrians.
2. Damage to the slabbed footways in Graham Road is a significant maintenance challenge for the Council and the poor conditions of footways creates a safety issues for pedestrians. Parking pressures are high in this road, due to many properties having no off-street available.
3. The Council has previously hardened some verges to facilitate parking. Bollards and posts have been installed on other lengths of road where parking cannot be accommodated. This has helped but does not represent a comprehensive solution.
4. Funding needs to be identified to consider a scheme that will fully address the parking pressures in Graham Road. This could include making it one-way to allow for more on-street parking to take place. Such a scheme might include constructing parking bays and other features that would clearly indicate to drivers where they can and cannot parking. This would enable parking practises to be better managed and regularised. This will be considered for inclusion in the Integrated Programme for the 2017/18 financial year.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Petition and accompanying correspondence

Appendix B – Location plan

## Appendix A

### **RE: Petition by Woodfield Green & Downside Residents Association on behalf of Graham Road Residents**

Please find enclosed a petition, raised by the Woodfield Green & Downside Residents Association, on behalf of the residents of Graham Road requesting the tarmacking of the "grass" verges in Graham Road, Dunstable.

As you will see, from the attached petition, residents feel that there are considerable on-going problems with parking in this road. At present, due to a lack of available parking space, vehicles are being parked on the "grass" verges. These verges subsequently become muddy ruts, which fill with rain water becoming a hazard for pedestrians, who do not realize they are about to step into a water filled pot-hole. Also, due to the parking situation there have been various times when council vehicles have been unable gain proper access (for bin collection etc) and if council vehicles cannot access Graham Road would an emergency vehicle?

The residents feel that if the verges were tarmacked, and these areas designated for parking, that this would stop the haphazard parking, which currently takes place, as well as making access easier and walking on the verges far safer.

### **Parking in Graham Road, Downside, Dunstable**

We, the undersigned residents of Graham Road, Downside, Dunstable request Central Bedfordshire Council to carrying out the tarmacking of the grass/mud verges of Graham Road. We feel that this is necessary as currently, due to lack of parking in this road, drivers are parking on these verges – if they park on the road this obstructs access for other traffic (including Council and Emergency vehicles); the result is that these verges have become extremely rutted which, when it rains fill up with water and subsequently make walking across these verges extremely hazardous for pedestrians.

## Appendix B

