
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 28 February 2017
Subject: West Parade, Dunstable – Consider Objections to Residents Permit Parking Proposal
Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways
Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Community Services for the implementation of a residents permit parking scheme and associated waiting restrictions in West Parade, Dunstable

RECOMMENDATION:-

That the proposal to introduce Residents Permit Parking in West Parade, Dunstable be implemented as published.

Contact Officer: Gary Baldwin
gary.baldwin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Dunstable Central
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal will improve road safety, traffic management and the amenity in the affected road.

Financial:

The works are being funded by the Local Transport Plan as part of the Integrated Programme of works.

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.

Budget and Delivery:	
Estimated cost: £2,500	Budget: LTP Integrated Programme
Expected delivery: May/June 2017	

Background and Information

1. The Council has received a number of complaints about parking in West Parade, Dunstable. Parking is currently unrestricted in this road and it is on the edge of the existing Prince Regent residents' permit parking zone, so there could be some overspill from that area. Many properties in West Parade have no off-street parking, so on-street parking is heavy.
2. A preliminary consultation exercise was carried out that there was strong support for a residents permit parking scheme. Of the 52 households, 32 returned the questionnaire with 67% of respondents supporting a permit parking scheme.
3. Consequently, a proposal was published to introduce a residents' permit scheme and was formally advertised by public notice in November 2016. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Dunstable Town Council and the Ward Member. Residents located in the areas where restrictions are proposed were individually consulted by letter.

Representations and Officer Responses

4. A total of 4 representations were received in response to the proposals. Three are opposed to the scheme.

The main issues raised were as follows:-

- a) The main problem with parking in West Parade is with people who live in the adjacent Prince Regent area parking in West Parade either to avoid purchasing a permit or because there is insufficient space in their own road.
- b) There are no significant parking problems in West Parade, so this proposal is unnecessary.

- c) Parking is heaviest in the evening when residents are home from work and a permit scheme will not help in this situation.
- d) The level of support for a residents permit scheme is insufficient to justify proceeding with it.
- e) Concerns that this is an extra tax on the motorist, cost of visitor permits and cost of 2nd and 3rd permits.

5. Officer response:-

- a) It is planned that West Parade will be a separate permit zone from the existing Prince Regent one. This was requested by most residents during the earlier consultation and will help to reserve space for residents of West Parade only.
- b) In the earlier consultation, 83% of respondents said that they had experienced parking problems.
- c) It is a fact that for residents permit parking scheme to work successfully there needs to be non-resident parking, such as commuters or office workers, that can be displaced from the area to free-up space for residents. This non-resident parking is more likely to occur during the working day. The consultation results indicated that 64% of respondents experienced parking difficulties all day, with 44% saying they were after 4pm.
- d) The response rate of 67% is reasonable for a consultation of these types and gives a good guide as to residents' preferences.
- e) The principle of charging for permits is long established and most local authorities apply a charge at varying levels. Several years ago, the cost of the first permit was reduced to £10, but the others remained unchanged at £70 and £90. Visitor permits work out at £1.20 per day, which is not considered to be excessive. Those receiving visits from professional carers can apply for special permit for those visitors, which is free of charge.

- 6. Given the results of the previous consultation and the fact that only four households responded to the statutory notice, it can be assumed that there is a high level of local support for the proposed changes.
- 7. If approved and implemented, the restrictions will be implemented in May/June 2017. The restrictions will be reviewed after 5 years to determine whether they should be retained, modified or removed.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Public notice of proposals

Appendix B – Drawing of proposals

Appendix C – Representations

PUBLIC NOTICE



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INTRODUCE NO WAITING AT ANY TIME AND RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING IN WEST PARADE, DUNSTABLE

Reason for proposal: For facilitating the passage of traffic on the road and to improve the amenity of the area. The permit parking is intended to address non-resident parking and to help residents, many of which have little or no off-street parking, to be able to park in their street.

Effect of the Order:

To introduce No Waiting at any time on the following length of road in Dunstable:-

1. West Parade, both sides from its junction with Princes Street extending in a south-westerly direction to a point approximately 1 metre south-west of the front wall of no.89 Princes Street.
2. West Parade, south-east side, from a point in line with the south-west flank wall of no.22 West Parade extending in a north-easterly direction to a point approximately 3 metres south-west of the boundary of nos.57 and 59 West Parade.
3. Leighton Court, both sides, from its junction with West Parade extending in a south-easterly direction to a point approximately 7 metres south-east of the front wall of no.20 West Parade.

To introduce Parking for Residents Permit Holders only on the following lengths of road in Dunstable:-

West Parade, for its full length, except for those lengths of road where waiting is prohibited.

The following properties will be eligible to apply for a residents' permit to park in the lengths of road identified above for Residents Permit Holders:-

West Parade, all residential premises. Any off-street parking areas would not be included in the resident permit zone.

Further Details may be examined during normal office hours at the address shown below, viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices or tel. 0300 300 5003.

Comments should be sent in writing to the Traffic Management team at the address below or e-mail traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 16 December 2016. Any objections must state the grounds on which they are made.

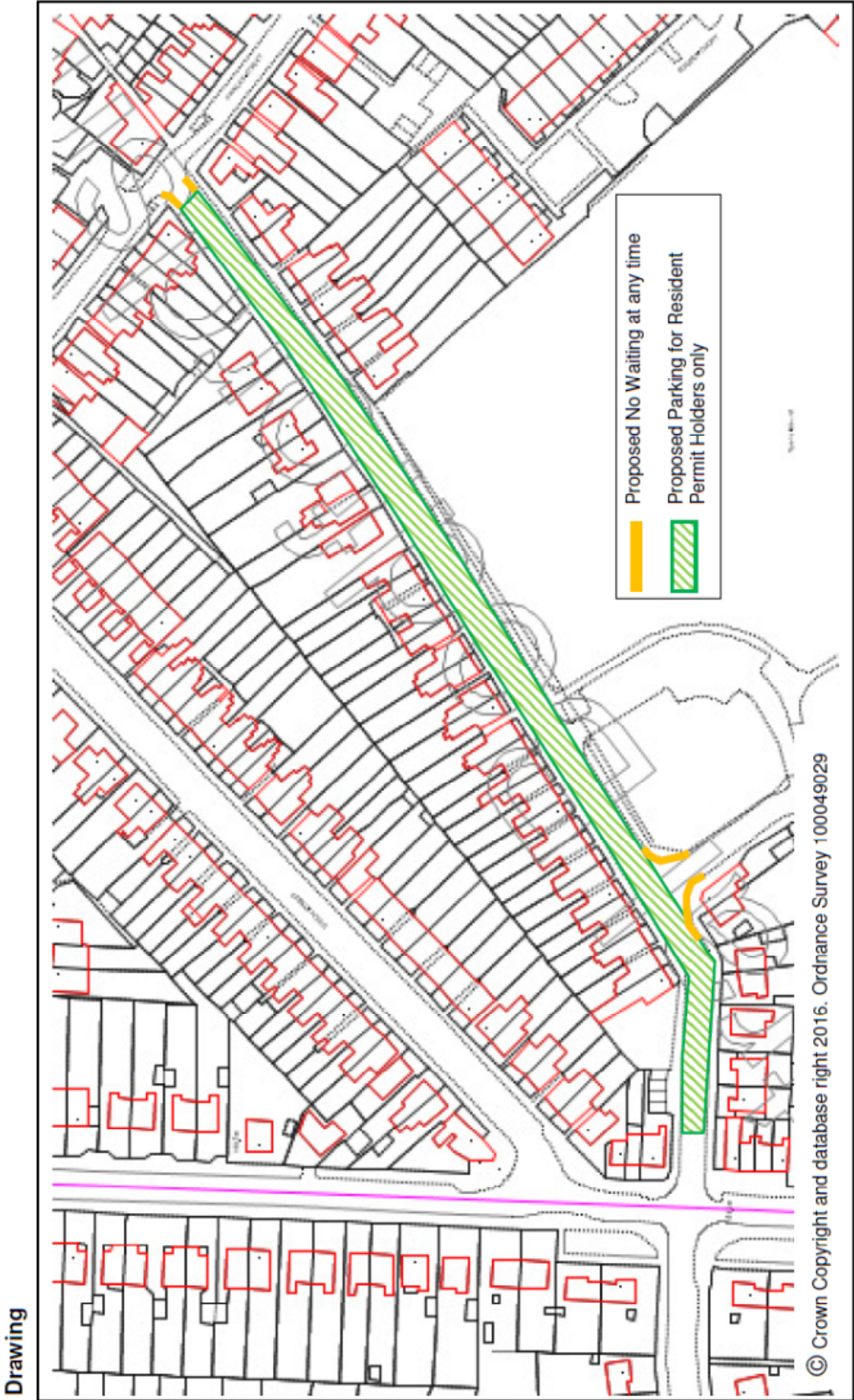
Order Title: If made will be "Central Bedfordshire Council (Bedfordshire County Council (District of South Bedfordshire) (Civil Enforcement Area and Special Enforcement Area) (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2008) (Variation No.*) Order 201*"

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

17 November 2016

Appendix B



Appendix C

Please be advised that I strongly disagree with and do not want parking permits in West Parade.

It will not stop most of the parking problems as the permit holders in nearby streets will still be able to park here and they are the main offender with people who do not live in West Parade parking here.

It seems to be just another way to take money from residents who already pay road tax and council tax.

It will cause some residents hardship. There are 3 cars at 21 West Parade and frequent visitors. We never have problems parking, always park in the street if not outside the house.

I live at xx West Parade and we took in all of the voting forms and it was 50/50 of the forms we took in so I fail to see how you can say that 67% of residents would favour a permit.

I was very disappointed to read the letter dated 14th November 2016 stating that West Parade was to proceed to the next step of a voucher parking scheme.

Having recently moved to West Parade, my wife and I didn't receive the questionnaire and thus were not able to respond. However, we would like it put on record that we do not experience significant parking problems on the street nor do we not support the introduction of Resident's Permit Parking.

The letter stated that it was felt there was sufficient local support to take a permit scheme to the next stage, however as only a little over 50% of questionnaires were returned - and three of the respondents don't actually live on West Parade - the level of local support for/against is difficult to gauge with any certainty. Given the total support for permit parking as a proportion of total questionnaires sent out is only 38.5% I believe it would be in the interest of residents if further enquiries were made before the next steps towards voucher parking are taken, especially as there may be newer residents such as ourselves who missed out on giving input.

My strongest objection is the cost of visitor parking - £30 for 25 one-day permits. My wife and I have a small baby and receive frequent, often fairly short visits from parents and in-laws to help out on top of the usual friends and relatives who drop by. As a single income family who manage on a tight budget, we could afford £10 per year for our car, however a cost of £1.20 per visit is extortionate and one that will quickly mount up. It could easily end up costing us £18-20 a month or over £200 for the year. For these reasons if the scheme were to go ahead, I would urge you to please consider reducing the cost of the visitor permits and not introduce the enforcements 24 hours a day.

It seems that the majority of parking issues in West Parade are caused by vehicles from Princes Street parking in the road. Will there be any distinction between the permits of Princess Street and West Parade? If there isn't, resident's parking permits will make no improvement to this part of the problem.

I would also dispute whether introducing voucher parking will reduce inconsiderate parking, as Parking in Princes Street, Victoria Street and surrounding roads with permit parking is frequently haphazard and inconsiderate, more so than in West parade.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views. I look forward to your response.

I have received your letter with regard to the above proposal for our road.

Whilst I am not totally adverse to this scheme, given the problems with parking in the road, I do have some concerns which I hope you can address.

I only have one car in my household so the cost of a permit is minimal, even though it will not guarantee one a parking space.

I work shifts and sometimes this means I arrive home between 0100-0330 hrs.

Currently with the parking as it is, I find myself having to 'dump' my car where I can as all I want to do is get to bed ready for the next shift later that day! This means I am sometimes having to 'dump' my car on the proposed 'No waiting at any time' area as that is all that is available. I appreciate the permit parking will hopefully allow for extra space but is this scheme purely for the residents of West Parade, or will it enable residents of Princes Street, Victoria Street, etc., who were also included in the proposed plans last year, to enable them with a 'permit parking' to park on West Parade? If it is, it is not really solving the current problem as they all park here anyway.

I do not want to place myself into a position where I am walking the streets at whatever time of the night my shifts end, just to find a parking space. You can guarantee those non residents who currently park on West Parade will, no doubt, commence their parking habits in Leighton Court, another area where at least I can 'overflow' into if needs must, but prefer not to as I do not live on Leighton Court and do not feel it is fair to those residents.

I appreciate this is a headache for you and whatever decision is made will not be acceptable to all, but I have to think about what this will mean to me and concerns I have to my safety.

I am writing in response to the letter I received regarding the introduction of residents parking on West Parade. I was very disappointed by the proposed outcome of introducing parking permits at all times along the road especially because we did not get a chance to respond to the questionnaire as we moved to West Parade over the summer. Also we do not experience a problem with parking outside our house.

The most difficult part of the scheme would be the cost of visitor parking. If the scheme runs at all times every time I had a visitor to the house it would cost me £1.20. I have a small baby and we are a one income family so you can imagine the effect this would have on our financial position due to the weekly support that I need from friends and family.

Since reading the letter I have been increasingly studying whether there is in fact a problem with parking in our road. I can without a doubt say that there are always spaces along the whole stretch of the road during 'office hours'. The busiest times are when people return from work but as I have mentioned we have always been able to

park on the road, thus a scheme that runs at all times seems unnecessary. Not only unnecessary but a huge inconvenience when visitors such as parents and in-laws come to help with looking after the baby in the day.

I can see that it does get busier along the road, usually after 6 pm, when people have returned from work. I would conclude therefore that it is actually residence that are using the road to park at this time. This would mean that the residence of West Parade would end up paying for parking in their own road, which currently we don't have to pay for but the problem would not actually be solved. I surmise that perhaps it is residence of roads such as Princes Street and Union Street where there are houses on each side of the road and less parking along it that are having to go further afield to park as they can not find parking in their own road or in fact they prefer not to pay for parking so park in West Parade. If this is the case, how would it be differentiated between a permit for West Parade and a permit for surrounding roads? If there is no differentiation then again it would not relieve the parking on West Parade but merely increase the cost of living here.

Looking at the percentages of respondents for the road and percentage of people who want permits to park at all times it does not show a majority. 61.5% are not necessarily in favour of the scheme running at all times. I would urge you therefore to please reconsider the scheme going ahead. My preference would be that it would not go ahead at all as we do not experience a parking problem and therefore do not want to incur annual expenditures for something that we will not benefit from.

If the scheme did go ahead it seems over the top to implement it at all times. I would ask you to consider a scheme that allowed for 3 hrs free parking. This would allow for visitors but for those using the road to park overnight or all day.

Another consideration would be to only have the scheme implemented after 6pm. If this was the case would you be employing parking wardens to issue tickets over night?

If the scheme was implemented please consider reducing the cost of the permit for the second car as if the permits are just for West Parade residents two sides of parking on the road means that each house could be afforded two spaces and so such a jump in price, I assume to put people off having a permit for a second car, is not needed to the same degree.

A wider view of parking in the area also needs to be considered. We are privileged to have parking on both sides of the road for the majority of West Parade with houses only on one side of it for the most part as well. If resident's parking only is implemented at all times I then it may cause extra stress for those who are dropping their children off for the school run because they can't park for a couple of minutes in the road for fear of getting a ticket. I can imagine that this could cause further congestion in and around Leighton Court. Also if it is made that only residents of West Parade can park in the road what about the roads such as Princes Street that don't have enough parking on their road, it would cause further problems and erratic parking in this road. If roads such as Princes Street could purchase permits for West Parade then it will not actually solve the problem of reducing the amount of cars parking on the road over night.

In conclusion the scheme does not seem fully considered and supported by the majority of residents and would cause extra stress and financial cost to our household. Please could you respond to my concerns and reconsider implementing the scheme.