

Central Bedfordshire Council

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEETING

30 OCTOBER 2018

Petition - Union Store Parking

Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director, Highways
(Paul.Mason@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Responsible Officer(s): Paul Salmon, Team Leader, Traffic Management, Highways
(Paul.Salmon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Purpose of this report

1. To report on the petition to allow using the driveway of the Union Store premises for customer parking, or alternatively reduce the parking restrictions from 2 hours to 30 minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Traffic Management Meeting is asked to:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | To Note the Petition |
| 2. | Not implement the petition proposal to allow using the driveway of the Union Store premises for customer parking. |

Issues

Background Information

2. Central Bedfordshire Council recently implemented a scheme to discourage vehicle footway overrun by installing bollards around the junction with the aim to facilitate traffic flow and prevent potential safety issues.
3. The shop owner was granted vehicle access for parking within his property boundary.
4. There are 2 parking bays on Union Street adjacent to the shop with the following time restrictions: "7am – 7pm ; 30 minutes; no return within 2 hours".
5. A petition was received in May 2018 and backed by 47 customers.

Options for consideration

6. The petition proposals are:
 - i. To allow customers using the driveway of the shop premises to park within the shop property boundary
 - ii. Alternatively, to reduce the time restrictions from 2 hours to 30 minutes.
7. The petition states that the busiest times for the store is during the evening and night, but the 30 minutes maximum waiting time is only valid from 7am to 7pm.

Reasons for decision

8. The proposal to allow customers using the driveway to park within the shop property boundary is proposed to be rejected for the following reasons:
 - i. Vehicles overrunning the footway to access the shop at this location would increase the risk of collision with pedestrians.
 - ii. Vehicles will be more likely to park obstructing the footway when the parking spaces within the shop premises are occupied.
 - iii. The location of the driveway at the roundabout is not suitable for frequent use as vehicles accessing/exiting the premises at this location would pose a risk for traffic.
9. The proposal to reduce the waiting time from 2 hours to 30 minutes is not applicable as the maximum waiting time is already 30 minutes at the moment (no return within 2 hours).

Council Priorities

10. The decision not to progress with the petition proposals is supported by the following Local Transport Plan objectives:
 - J: Reduce the risk of people being killed or seriously injured

Corporate Implications

11. Not applicable.

Legal Implications

12. Not applicable.

Financial and Risk Implications

13. Not applicable.

Equalities Implications

14. The petition proposals would have a negative impact on vulnerable users – including visibility impaired, wheelchairs, children, etc. – as they would significantly increase vehicle footway overrun.

Conclusion and next Steps

15. The petition proposals should not be implemented.

Appendices

Appendix A: Petition Email

Appendix B: Petition Letter

Report Author:

Paul Salmon – Team Leader, Traffic Management, Highways

Paul.Salmon@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Appendix A: Petition Email

Sent: 20 May 2018 15:31

Subject: Customer Parking at Union Store

Dear Sir/Madam,

Name of Business: Union Store

I am emailing you regarding the ongoing issue with customer parking for my business premise 'Union Store'. This email lays out the history and has provided, as attachments, a list of customers' signatures in support of my petition to allow vehicular access by customers to park on the premise or for designated customer parking.

Bollards were installed in 2016 in front of the shop and all along the corners of the roundabout with a view to uphold public safety and order, as vehicles were blocking the public foot path and pavement. While I have accepted the decision and understand why the bollards are necessary, my business profit has fallen significantly due to there not being appropriate customer parking.

The council, in 2016, deployed removable bollards to enter my driveway and also 2 time restricted parking spots in Union Street near the business. We were thankful to the council for addressing the issue. Unfortunately as the waiting time is neither strictly followed nor enforced rigorously, it has not helped the situation. Furthermore, the time restrictions end at 7 p.m. and residents nearby park the vehicles permanently from 5 p.m. itself as they are well within the maximum two hour waiting time. As we usually expect more customers in the evening and night time, the arrangement has not particularly helped my business.

I have previously emailed enquiring whether I might be able to use the driveway as customer parking. Currently, I am able to park my van and car easily by accessing the premise as is. As this is a corner property we have parking space for 2-3 vehicles well within our property boundary.

My business serves many customers who benefit from services such as parcel delivery, so I please kindly request the council to consider the state of my business as not having customer parking has resulted in me losing customers who are unable to find parking, and therefore, do not come to the shop. I hope the council can understand my situation as a small business competing in an era of local competition and online shopping, and that this parking issue has significantly affected my ability to run my business to its full potential.

I have attached to this email scanned copies of a list of customers who have signed in support of measures for customers to be able to use the business premises' driveway or two parking spots designated for customer parking. Also, attached is the letter I presented to the customers when asking for their signatures.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and I am extremely thankful for the time the council has taken to consider this issue.

Kind Regards,

S. Kuganeswaran

Appendix B: Petition Letter

Dear Sir/Madam (Highways),

I am writing with regards to the issue of customer parking at my business premise. The council kindly provided Union Store with two time-restricted parking spots on Union Street. Unfortunately, the waiting times are not strictly followed and enforced. The busiest times for Union Store is during the evening and night. However, the restriction ends at 7 p.m. and the two hour maximum waiting time means that people can park on the two spots permanently from 5 p.m. Therefore, as a result of insufficient customer parking, I am losing business profit.

I would, therefore, please like to request whether I may use the driveway of the shop premises as customer parking. As this is a corner property, we have parking spaces for between two and three vehicles within the property boundary. Alternatively, please might the maximum for the parking spots be reduced from two hours to 30 minutes?

Attached is a list of customers who would support me in this request. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards,


Union Store, Dunstable, LU6 1HB