

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	25 th JUNE 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	8
TITLE:	FOOTWAY AND VERGE PARKING BAN UPDATE - SOUTHCOTE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	SOUTHCOTE
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Sub-Committee the results of the second informal consultation on the proposed experimental footway and verge parking ban in the Southcote area.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Members of the Sub-Committee note the report.
- 2.2 That, based on the positive results of the two informal consultations, Members of the Sub-Committee approve the scheme and in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make an Experimental Footway and Verge parking ban Traffic Regulation Order in Southcote in the streets listed in paragraph 4.9 in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 2.3 If objections are received to the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, those objections be reported to the Sub-Committee at the appropriate time.
- 2.4 That the Head of Transportation and Streetcare be authorised to modify or suspend provisions in the Experimental Order and that the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order includes a provision for this.
- 2.5 That the Southcote Experimental Traffic Regulation Order be approved for a period of up to 18 months.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 The proposals are in line with current Transport and Planning Policy.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 At the meeting of the Traffic Management Advisory Panel in November 2012, a report was submitted detailing a review of on-street parking in the Southcote area by the Southcote Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG).

4.2 The Southcote NAG compiled a list of key priorities they would like to tackle. Inconsiderate parking and in particular parking on footways and verges has been graded as the top priority for the group.

4.3 They identified the potential roads where such a ban could apply and they included:-

Ashampstead Road
Brunel Road
Circuit Lane
Florian Gardens (off Virginia Way only)
Frilsham Road
Gainsborough Road
Southcote Lane
Virginia Way

4.4 On 20th April 2013, the NAG commenced an informal consultation on a verge and footway parking ban in the roads listed in paragraph 4.10. The consultation ran until 28th May 2013.

4.5 At the September 2013 Traffic Management Sub-Committee, a report was submitted detailing the results of the informal consultation and the results of the consultation were as follows:-

	Total number of responses	Yes	No
Ashampstead Road (141 properties)	45 (32%)	36 (80%)	9 (20%)
Brunel Road (106 properties)	31 (29%)	27 (87%)	4 (13%)
Circuit Lane (111 properties)	56(50%)	44 (79%)	12 (21%)
Florian Gardens (14 properties)	-	-	-
Frilsham Road (28 properties)	4 (14%)	3 (75%)	1 (25%)
Gainsborough Road (120 properties)	31 (26%)	24 (77%)	7 (23%)
Southcote Lane (362 properties)	87 (24%)	56 (64%)	31 (36%)
Virginia Way (72 properties)	16 (22%)	13 (81%)	3 (19%)
Total - 954	281 (29%)	213 (76%)	68 (24%)

The scheme was approved (with the exception of Florian Gardens), and Members agreed to implement the restrictions after the review of the first trial scheme in Tilehurst was completed.

4.6 As reported to the Traffic Management Sub-Committee in March 2014, an issue from the trial scheme in Tilehurst was identified which would potentially be replicated in Southcote if a similar scheme was introduced.

4.7 At the request of the Local Ward Councillors, the members of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee and the members of the Southcote NAG, Officers completed a second informal consultation between 28th April 2014 and 30th May 2014. The consultation drew to residents attention that they will no longer be able to park on the area of driveway access between the edge of the road and their private driveways if the restrictions were introduced. It also asked them to confirm if they remain supportive of the proposed scheme.

4.8 The results of the second informal consultation are as follows:-

	Total number of responses	Yes	No
Ashampstead Road (141 properties)	29 (21%)	20 (69%)	9 (31%)
Brunel Road (106 properties)	21 (20%)	17 (81%)	4 (19%)
Circuit Lane (111 properties)	53 (48%)	37 (70%)	16 (30%)
Frilsham Road (28 properties)	3 (11%)	2 (67%)	1 (33%)
Gainsborough Road (120 properties)	27 (23%)	19 (70%)	8 (30%)
Southcote Lane (362 properties)	82 (23%)	58 (71%)	24 (29%)
Virginia Way (72 properties)	26 (36%)	15 (58%)	11 (42%)
Total - 940	241 (26%)	168 (70%)	73 (30%)

4.9 26% of residents responded to the second consultation, 3% lower than the first consultation. The majority of respondents in each road remain supportive of the proposed scheme.

4.10 The majority of those not in support raised concerns about the lack of alternative locations to park if the restriction was introduced. In response, the restriction will only apply to the footways and verges, and parking will continue to be permitted in the road.

4.11 Therefore, on the basis that the majority of residents are in support of a footway and verge parking ban in the roads listed in paragraph 4.9, it is recommended to introduce the scheme on an experimental basis in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 for a maximum of 18 months (similar to the Tilehurst scheme).

Any objections received during the first 6 months of operation will be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Statutory consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 6.2 Local consultation completed by RBC on the Tilehurst scheme.
- 6.3 Local consultation completed by the Southcote NAG - April 2013.
- 6.4 Local consultation completed by RBC and the Southcote NAG - April 2014

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Any proposals for waiting and movement restrictions are advertised under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 8.2 The Council has carried out a equality impact assessment scoping exercise, and considers that the proposals do not have a direct impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The projects are funded through existing Transport and Safer Communities budgets.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 TMAP reports - November 2012 and January 2013.
Traffic Management Sub-Committee reports - September and November 2013
March 2014.