

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	11 SEPTEMBER 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	PETITION UPDATE - NEWTOWN VISITOR HOURS		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update the committee on a response to the petition submitted to the June 2014 Traffic Management Sub Committee. The petition from residents of the East side of Newtown area requested that the operational hours for the shared use provisions be amended from 10am-4pm to 8am-8pm.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of waiting restrictions and associated criteria is specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards and resident permit scheme rules.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Informal consultation was carried out with residents of East Newtown, during December 2011, regarding the introduction of a residents parking scheme. Following a positive response from residents, for the introduction of a residents permit scheme, statutory consultation was carried out during February to March 2012, and subsequently the scheme was introduced in September 2012. This shared-use resident parking scheme is in operation Monday to Sunday 10am to 4pm. This allows 2 hours parking for visitors during this time without the use of a permit, at all other times it is only permit holders only.
- 4.2 The 10am to 4pm differs from the historic 8am to 8pm times, as following a review of the entire residents parking permit scheme in 2011, it was recommended that the 10am to 4pm shared use times be used. Subsequently the area of Newtown (West side) that has historically had Residents Parking uses the 8am to 8pm times, whilst the new area within East Newtown has 10am to 4pm.
- 4.3 A one year follow up was carried out on the new scheme and reported to the Traffic Management Sub Committee in November 2013. At this time, no mention was made by residents that the hours of scheme operation was an issue.
- 4.4 To amend the hours of the scheme would require undertaking a further statutory consultation process to advise road users of the proposals and subject to objections would need to be reported back to a further Traffic Management Sub Committee. Should the change occur approximately 140 sign faces will also need to be amended to reflect the change of operational hours. Prior to carrying out formal statutory consultation it would be recommended that a consensus is reached between the 712 households within the East Reading area on their preferred hours of operation.

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 The lead petitioner will be informed of the findings of the Sub-Committee.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising from this report.

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 will carry out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise prior should the Sub-Committee recommend a change of operational hours.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None arising from this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Cabinet 26th September 2011
Traffic Management Advisory Panel January 2012 & March 2012.
Traffic Management Sub Committee November 2013 & June 2014.