

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	3 NOVEMBER 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	7
TITLE:	PETITION FOR A RESIDENTS PARKING PERMIT SCHEME IN LOWER HAMILTON ROAD - UPDATE REPORT		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	PARK
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update the Sub-Committee on a petition submitted to September TM Sub-committee requesting the council to consult with residents over a residents parking permit scheme for Lower Hamilton Road.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That the request to consider a formal parking scheme and consult with residents be progressed through the current 6-monthly waiting restriction review.
- 2.3 That, as a part of the 6-monthly waiting restriction review, localised consultation be carried out with a further report submitted to the January 2016 meeting of the Sub-committee to take proposals forward for statutory consultation.
- 2.3 That the lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

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

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 A petition was received at the September 2015 meeting of the Sub-committee requesting the council to consider a formal parking scheme and consult with residents on a residents parking permit scheme for Lower Hamilton Road.

The wording of the petition reads: 'We are concerned about the parking situation in lower Hamilton Road and recently held a consultation with all the residents to discover their views on sending a petition to the Council about some form of residents parking scheme, or similar, which will address the problems we have. We would be grateful if the Committee would consider this petition and hold a consultation in the area to look at the problems and consider ways forward.'

Hamilton Road is long and narrow, as compared with many other roads in the Borough, and cannot accommodate vehicles parked on both sides (4-wheels in the road) as well as through traffic in single file. The result has been a growing use of pavement parking, which is now considered the norm. The impact of this is particularly hard on pedestrians, especially children, anyone who is slow, has a mobility or balance problem, as well as parents with buggies and people in wheelchairs. The other impact on many car owners here is the difficulty they often have in entering and leaving their properties by car because of vehicles obstructing their entrances. There has also been an instance when the fire engine has not been able to get up the road unimpeded.'

- 4.2 It is recommended that this request be considered as a part of the current 6-monthly waiting restriction review where the typical review processes will then be followed. The currently review commenced with the list that was approved at September TM Sub-committee. Officers are now looking at each request and will report findings to ward councillors prior to Christmas. During the period of officer review residents will be asked what their permit requirement is likely to be. This will be used to assess the business case for providing a residents permit parking scheme. Approval to take proposals forward for statutory consultation will then be reported to the Sub-committee in January 2016 as a part of the wider 6-monthly review.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 Service Priorities contained in the Corporate Plan 2015 - 2019.

- Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable.
- Keeping the town clean, green and active.
- Providing infrastructure to support the economy.
- Remaining financially sustainable to deliver these service priorities.

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.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None arising from this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Petition report - TM Sub September 2015