

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

|                         |  |                     |  |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>TO:</b>              | TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE                                     |                     |  |
| <b>DATE:</b>            | 3 NOVEMBER 2015  | <b>AGENDA ITEM:</b> | 9  |
| <b>TITLE:</b>           | REQUEST TO REMOVE THE SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS FROM HONEY END LANE |                     |  |
| <b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b> | COUNCILLOR<br>TONY PAGE  | <b>PORTFOLIO:</b>   | STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT,<br>PLANNING AND TRANSPORT |
| <b>SERVICE:</b>         | TRANSPORTATION<br>& STREETCARE                                       | <b>WARDS:</b>       | SOUTHCOTE  |
| <b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>    | SIMON BEASLEY  | <b>TEL:</b>         | 0118 937 2228                                    |
| <b>JOB TITLE:</b>       | NETWORK &<br>PARKING SERVICES<br>MANAGER                             | <b>E-MAIL:</b>      | simon.beasley@reading.gov.uk                     |

#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update the Sub-Committee on the request to remove the School Keep Clear restrictions on Honey End Lane that featured in the waiting restriction review in June 2015.
- 1.2 Officers met with residents of both Honey End Lane and Cockney Hill to discuss requests for changes to parking restrictions within both roads. This meeting was held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 - drawing WRR/2015B/SO1.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That the request to remove the School Keep Clear restriction and replace it with a single yellow line timed to school arrival and departure times be advertised as a part of the next waiting restriction review.
- 2.3 That the residents directly affected by the restriction be informed of the decision taken by the Sub-committee and provided with an expected timeline for the change.

### 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 Representations have been received from residents of Honey End Lane to remove the school keep clear marking outside their homes which are close the entrance to Prospect School. The request has been made in response to residents (and their visitors) being caught in contravention of the order by the camera enforcement vehicle when stopping outside their properties.
- 4.2 Waiting restrictions apply to the whole of the highway and some residents are mistaken in the belief that stopping on the footway and behind the actual road marking is allowed. The footway is quite wide at this point and a vehicle can stop within the dropped kerb (vehicle crossover) section without blocking pedestrians walking on the footway. The dropped kerb is there to allow legal access across the footway to an off-street parking place and stopping in this section is not permitted. This issue is similar to the point raised by residents of Mayfair where we had the footway/verge parking ban in place. Additionally residents have parked their vehicles off-carriageway and on the footway parallel to the kerb during the restricted times. This has also resulted in receiving a penalty charge notice (PCN) in contravention of the school keep clear restriction. The school keep clear prevents stopping between the hours of 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday only.
- 4.3 A number of challenges have been made in appeal to issued PCNs where there has been some debate over whether or not the restriction applies to the whole of the highway. After some deliberation the Traffic Appeals Tribunal (TPT) agrees with us that, like all waiting restrictions, school keep clears apply to the whole of the highway. In light of this residents have asked that the restriction be removed or relaxed. There are two school keep clear markings on both sides of the road in this location separated by a zebra crossing. The layout of school keep clear markings and zebra crossing is shown on the attached drawing WRR/2015B/SO1. As can be seen from the drawing the school keep clear markings outside numbers 57-59 and 66 are away from the school entrance. Removal or relaxing the restriction provides the opportunity for residents and their visitors to stop outside or closer to their homes. This is particularly an issue for elderly visitors or those with children who are currently unable to even stop to allow passengers to get in or out of the vehicle.

4.4 At a meeting with residents on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 it was agreed to ask the Sub-committee to consider relaxing the restriction. The proposal is to remove the school keep clear and replace it with a single yellow line that restricts parking between 8:15 and 8:45 am and again between 2:45 and 3:15 pm. This maintains the integrity of what the school keep clear is designed to achieve and prevents the temptation to park on the footway at the busiest school arrival and departure times. However, during the time that school children are in school residents (and their visitors) are able to stop closer to their homes without being in contravention of the waiting restriction.

4.5 To take this request forward it is recommended that the revised restriction is progressed through the current 6-monthly waiting restriction review. The current review commenced with the list that was approved at September TM Sub-committee. Approval to take this proposal forward for statutory consultation will 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 residents affected by the current restriction will be informed of the decision 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 The previous waiting restriction review as reported to TM Sub throughout the first half of 2015 concluding in June.