

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	9 MARCH 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	6
TITLE:	PETITION UPDATE - PARKING PROTECTION AND ROAD SAFETY MEASURES ON THE MEADWAY		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To report to the Sub-Committee the recommendations of Officers, following the Council's receipt of a petition requesting the implementation of parking protection and road safety measures on The Meadway, outside the shopping area opposite the junction with Dee Road.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee notes the report.
- 2.2 That waiting (parking) restrictions are considered as part of the Waiting Restriction Review Programme, as per Items 4.3a and 4.3b.
- 2.3 That traffic calming is not considered at this time, as per Item 4.3c.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The provision of waiting/parking restrictions and road safety measures are specified within existing Traffic Management Policies and Standards.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 The Council received a petition highlighting a number of issues that are alleged to be occurring in the vicinity of The Meadway/Dee Road shops. The lead petitioner presented further detail to the Sub-Committee at their meeting in January 2017.

4.2 A summary of the items requested, which are within the remit of the Sub-Committee are as follows:

- a) Permit parking, with 2 hours short-term parking (i.e. shared-use permit parking with 2 hours limited waiting).
- b) The laybys to the north and south of the 'horseshoe' to be converted to disabled and emergency service vehicle bays only.
- c) Traffic calming, by way of 3 rubber speed humps on approach to and exit from the shops, and a 10mph speed limit installed.
- d) Upgraded lighting to the front of the shops.

4.3 Officers have investigated the issues raised and the requests made and have the following recommendations for the committee:

- a) The Sub-Committee may wish to consider adding the request for resident permit parking to the list of outstanding schemes. However, consideration would need to be given to the residents who would benefit from this scheme and the impact that permit parking could have to the availability of parking spaces for visitors to the shops.

There would likely be a long lead-in time for the introduction of a permit scheme, due to the number of outstanding schemes awaiting progression. Waiting restrictions, possibly daytime-only, could be considered as part of the Waiting Restriction Review programme and implemented in a shorter timescale. However, some parking in this area is likely to be from Hanover Court (which sits behind the shops) and not part of the public highway network therefore, residents would not typically be eligible for a permit.

Officers recommend considering waiting restrictions as part of the 2017A review programme.

- b) It is recommended that the request for disabled bays is considered as part of the 2017A Waiting Restriction Review programme.
- c) The minimum legal speed limit that can be implemented on the Highway is 20mph. Traffic calming features would need to comply

with Highway regulations, so could not be installed in the manner requested. Officers have not observed motorists using the 'horseshoe' to bypass the traffic signals, nor driving at excessive speed. While a speed survey could be conducted, this would be outsourced at a cost to the Council and would likely demonstrate that the majority of vehicles are traveling at less than 20mph.

This one-way section of The Meadway has an excellent Highway safety record, with no incidents involving casualties having been recorded by the Police in the latest 3 year period.

It is unfortunate that there will always be a minority of motorists that do not drive in an appropriate and acceptable manner, regardless of the measures that are put in place to encourage them to do so. The installation of vertical traffic calming measures would be subject to statutory consultation and consideration would need to be given to the additional road noise that they could create, as well as the locations available for installation - accesses to private driveways and the location of the parking bays will limit availability. Officers do not recommend progressing with traffic calming measures at this time, as there is currently no evidence to suggest that there is a speed-related road safety issue at this location.

- d) The Highway street lighting columns are due to be upgraded to the improved LED lamps, as part of the Council's rolling LED lighting replacement programme.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 This proposal supports the aims and objectives of the Local Transport Plan and helps to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:

- 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.

8.2 The Council will carry out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise prior to proposing the introduction of any changes to waiting restrictions and/or traffic management measures.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None arising from this report.

9.2 Funding will need to be identified should the Sub-Committee wish to progress a resident permit parking and/or road safety (traffic calming) scheme and for instructing a speed survey.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Traffic Management Sub-Committee (January 2017).