

ITEM NO: 3

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE NO WAITING AT ANY TIME RESTRICTIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE JUNCTION OF BASSETT GREEN CLOSE AND BASSETT GREEN ROAD (TRO)		
DATE OF DECISION:	25 OCTOBER 2010		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF HIGHWAYS AND PARKING		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
N/A			

SUMMARY

A Traffic Regulation Order was proposed on 28th May 2010 to introduce no waiting at any time parking restrictions in the vicinity of the junction of Bassett Green Road and Bassett Green Close. Following public consultation a sustained objection remains to the loss of any available parking for residents and the need to extend the restrictions to cover a junction of Bassett Green Close. The matter is therefore following due process in being brought to the Cabinet of the Council for a decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Cabinet consider and determine the objection to the advertised proposals for no waiting at any time parking restrictions in Bassett Green Close; and
- (ii) That the Cabinet considers and decides upon an alternative proposal with a provision for two hour limited waiting parking 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To fulfil the Council's obligation to consult upon proposals and consider objections.
2. To enable the advertised or alternative proposals to be implemented subject to Cabinet Approval.

CONSULTATION

3. The proposed no waiting at any time parking restrictions were advertised in the Daily Echo and on street notices on 28th May.
4. Following a sustained objection to the scheme design, a survey of residents' views on an alternative scheme design was undertaken in September to assist Cabinet in deciding this matter. The outcome of the survey is shown at Appendix 5.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. Leaving the kerb-side unrestricted was considered and rejected on the basis there is general acceptance of the need for restrictions. The conflicting views

are arising over the extent and type of restrictions that should be introduced.

DETAIL

6. Over recent years there has been a number of concerns over visibility and access issues arising from vehicles parking in Bassett Green Close near the junction with Bassett Green Road, particularly long-stay parking by students. Initial correspondence with residents in the immediate vicinity indicated conflicting views over the extent of any possible parking restrictions.
7. In April a map of requested no waiting at any time restrictions was received with a supporting petition with 41 resident signatures. It was then decided to advertise these restrictions as requested, in order that the scheme design (see Appendix 1) could be open to wider public consultation
8. In objecting to the design of the scheme Mr and Mrs Collins highlighted the following: (see Appendix 3)
 - That for four months of the year there is no problem;
 - Residents should not be subjected to serious parking restrictions because of non-residents parking without due care;
 - That yellow lines would be useful just on the corners and the main bend;
 - The parking restrictions plan will leave us with no parking outside our house or our neighbours for guests. We feel this is unacceptable and unfair;
 - That the parking is inconvenient rather than dangerous;
 - That students will only discover alternative parking further into the Close and probably at the side of the property;
 - The driveway was created at great expense to relieve the parking situation and we should have free access to this driveway as we have three vehicles which we keep off the road;
 - Other residents have similar concerns;
 - There is ample parking for students in their accommodation in Bassett Green Road;
 - There is no problem with visitors to the Crematorium as it is only short stay; and
 - Drivers entering the estate generally drive too fast around the bend and our worry is if there are yellow lines installed then the speed of drivers will become even more of an issue.
9. In sustaining their objection Mr and Mrs Collins further highlighted the following: (see Appendix 3)
 - We feel that the proposals are much to extreme;
 - Immediate neighbours did not sign and in some cases were not aware of the petition. They feel that some form of parking restriction is required but not to the extent proposed;
 - The majority who signed must live further in the Close. Their answer to the problem does not serve the needs of the people living in the proposed restricted area;
 - Everyone else in the vicinity of the proposed yellow lines will have free access to their houses. However we feel that we will be the only people really affected because we live on the corner and will have yellow lines

on the front of our property and displacement parking to the side of the property;

- In your letter you stated that potential parking displacement areas would be addressed after the parking restrictions installed. In the meantime we ask how are we to access our property? The only solution would be to continue the yellow lines to the side of our house on both sides of the road;
- We are disappointed that because we have not pressurised others to support our views we are being disregarded; and
- We have consulted our neighbours who wish to support the provision of safer residents' parking between the proposed yellow lines (see Appendix 3 and 4).

10. Officer views.

- Following discussions with the Mr and Mrs Collins an alternative scheme design (see Appendix 2) which would address their concerns was sent to the other residents in Bassett Green Close with a survey form to confirm whether this would be acceptable and to afford the opportunity to object, as appropriate;
- The outcome of the survey is shown at Appendix 5. The overall survey indicates general acceptance of the alternative design, but from the comments there are preferences from a number of residents for no waiting at any time restrictions in place of any provision for limited waiting parking;
- There are also a number of clear objections to the alternative design on the basis of continued hazards for through traffic and any displacement of vehicles further into Bassett Green Close;
- A number of residents have also highlighted that the problem would be better addressed at source by the University of Southampton and Crematorium providing additional parking (though this is outside the scope of these proposals);
- Whilst residents have highlighted hazards encountered along this section of Bassett Green Close (see Appendix 5), there is no recorded injury accident data (from 1/1/00 – 31/5/10 for Bassett Green Close. It is therefore difficult to make an overriding case for no waiting at any time restrictions on both sides of the road beyond the junctions or bend;
- The alternative scheme design would appear to offer an improvement over the current unrestricted parking. The limited waiting restrictions will still deter long-stay parking by students, whilst allowing some short-stay parking for residents and their visitors between 8am to 6m, Mon – Fri; and
- The extension of restrictions to cover the wider junction of Bassett Green Close would also improve visibility and access. Whilst allowing parking within this section of Bassett Green Close may restrict the flow of traffic, it may also reduce vehicle speeds as highlighted in the objection.

11. Overall whilst Cabinet Members will wish to take account of the views from residents' survey, the Traffic Management team would on balance support the alternative scheme design (at Appendix 2). There is no overriding injury accident data and this scheme design would appear to be acceptable to most residents. If approved, the operation and impact of the restrictions could then be reviewed at the end of this university year (summer 2011). Further proposals could then be considered, as appropriate, subject to community support.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

12. N/A

Revenue

13. The cost of the TRO, consultation, road signing and permit issue is estimated to be £4,000, which can be met from the Environment and Transport portfolio.

Property

14. N/A

Other

15. N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

16. The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 permits the introduction of the parking restrictions as set out in this report in accordance with a statutory consultation procedure set down in the Act and associated secondary legislation.

Other Legal Implications:

17. In preparing and determining the proposals set out in this report the Council is required to have regard to the provisions of Equalities legislation, the Human Rights Act 1988 and s.17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (the duty to have regard to the need to remove or reduce crime and disorder in the area). It is considered that the proposals set out in this report are proportionate having regard to the wider needs of the area.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

18. N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices

1.	Map of advertised scheme design and covering statement for residents' petition
2.	Map of alternative scheme design accepted by objector
3.	Correspondence in relation to the objection
4.	Other relevant correspondence - not registered as formal objections
5.	Survey results for alternative scheme design in Bassett Green Close

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	N/A
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	N/A	
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Background documents available for inspection at:

FORWARD PLAN No:

KEY DECISION?

NO

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

Bassett