

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Agenda Item: 7

Meeting Date	Monday 26 th June 2017
Report Title	Petition – Parking, School Road, Faversham
Cabinet Member	Cllr Alan Horton
SMT Lead	Martyn Cassell
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell
Lead Officer	Mike Knowles (SBC)
Classification	Open

Recommendations	<p>Members are asked to note the results of the recent consultation with residents of School Road, Plantation Road and Kings Road, Faversham, and recommend that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Either a Residents Parking Scheme is introduced or not progressed in School Road2) Should a Residents Parking Scheme be progressed in School Road, Plantation Road is either included or excluded from this Scheme3) A Residents Parking Scheme is not introduced in Kings Road4) Alternatively, the consultation should be re-run and the results reported back to the Joint Transportation Board.
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1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the results of the recent consultation with residents of School Road, Plantation Road and Kings Road in Faversham as to whether they would support the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme in their road.

2. Background

- 2.1 A petition was presented to the Swale Joint Transportation Board by residents of School Road in Faversham, requesting the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme from Nos.1 to 24 School Road. A copy of the front sheet of the petition can be found in Annex A.

3. Issue for Decision

- 3.1 The petition states that there is an increasing problem with commuters parking for long periods outside of these properties to avoid having to pay for parking elsewhere. It also states that owners of second and third cars who live on controlled road in the vicinity are also using the area to avoid buying extra permits.
- 3.2 A consultation leaflet was sent out to all properties in School Road, Faversham, requesting feedback as to whether residents would support the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme. Due to the potential displacement of vehicles into adjoining roads should the Scheme be introduced, similar leaflets were sent to residents of Plantation Road and Kings Road, asking if those residents would support a Scheme in their road should Residents Parking be introduced in School Road. A copy of the consultation documents can be found in Annex B.
- 3.3 The results of the consultation can be found in Annex C, and an overall summary of the results can be found in Annex D.

School Road

- 3.4 The original petition received consisted of 30 signatures from a total of 15 properties in School Road. Of those 15 properties on the petition, 12 responded to our consultation, 9 supporting the proposals and 3 objecting. Two other objections received were from residents who had not signed the petition, giving a total of 14 responses, 9 supporting the proposals and 5 objecting.
- 3.5 The consultation response rate of 54% is relatively low, and a number of factors could have contributed to this. Some of the signatures on the original petition were from the same property, and therefore this represented only 15 of the 26 properties in School Road. In addition to this, with residents recently receiving personally addressed postal votes, polling cards and postal vote reminders, a letter addressed to "the owner/occupier" may not have received their attention and been thrown away. Due to data protection issues, the majority of officers do not have access to personal information on properties and as such we are unable to personally address consultation material.
- 3.6 Various comments were received from the residents of School Road, and these can be found in Annex C. Some responses state that they support the proposed introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme and it will tackle problems with commuter parking, whilst others felt that there was not a problem with parking during the day which is when the Scheme would be in operation. A couple of responders had misunderstood the conditions of the permits, believing that they could purchase two permits but only use one at a time. These residents were advised that up to two permits could be purchased and used together, and whilst a single permit could cover two vehicles only one of the vehicles could use the permit at any one time. The responders were given the opportunity to revise their responses based on this information.

- 3.7 A total of 64% of those residents who responded supported the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme in School Road, and 36% objected. In terms of the overall total number of properties in School Road, this represents 35% of residents supporting the proposals and 19% objecting, with the remaining 46% not responding.

Kings Road

- 3.8 In Kings Road, consultation material was sent to 39 properties. A total of 17 responses were received, providing a response rate of 44%. Seven of the responses supported the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme in Kings Road, should the Scheme be installed in School Road, and 10 responses objected.
- 3.9 Again, various comments were received from the residents of Kings Road. From those supporting, comments included asking whether or not the restrictions need to operate all day when it was felt a midday restriction could be just as effective for tackling commuter parking. Other comments included higher charges for larger vehicles, a ban on commercial vehicles overnight and reservations on how the Scheme will be enforced. Comments from objectors included objections to a £45 per year permit when there is no guarantee of parking near their property, comments that there is not a problem with non-resident parking and that the parking problems occur in the evening and weekend when the Scheme would not be in operation.
- 3.10 A total of 41% of those residents who responded supported the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme in Kings Road, and 59% objected. In terms of the overall total number of properties in Kings Road, this represents 18% supporting the proposals, 26% objecting, and the remaining 56% not responding.

Plantation Road

- 3.11 In Plantation Road, consultation material was sent to 48 properties, and a total of 17 responses were received, providing a response rate of 35%. Eleven of the responses supported the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme in Plantation Road, should the Scheme be installed in School Road, and 6 objected.
- 3.12 Comments from those who responded supporting the Scheme included a request for Cavour Road to also be included in the Scheme, comments that introducing the Scheme in School Road only would displace the problem into nearby roads, and claims that parking in Plantation Road has worsened over recent years. An objection was received against the introduction of a Scheme in School Road without Plantation Road due to fears over vehicle displacement. Comments from objectors included visitors being disadvantaged by a Scheme, that there is insufficient room for parking during the day, that Plantation Road is not too close to the town centre and does not warrant permits and that residents would struggle to meet the costs of permits.

- 3.13 A total of 65% of those residents who responded supported the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme in Plantation Road, and 35% objected. In terms of the overall total number of properties in Plantation Road, this represents 23% supporting the proposals, 13% objecting, and the remaining 64% not responding.

Members' Comments

- 3.14 One of the Ward Members states that *“the consultation on this issue was undertaken in most unusual circumstances. Unfortunately it coincided with the period of the KCC elections. It is estimated that all political parties delivered some 14 pieces of literature to each household. Hence when the SBC letter to “Dear Occupier” was posted many residents thought that this was another piece of literature and discarded it. Having spoken with a number of residents in both School Road, Kings Road and Plantation Road before the consultation I am very aware that in these terraced houses along narrow roads parking problems created by those commuters who regularly park there to avoid the town centre parking permit areas causes considerable disruption. The original petition presented by residents of School Road gave overwhelming support. Reasonably the council decided to extend the area in its formal consultation. But this became mixed up with the KCC election.”*
- 3.15 The Ward Member also states that he *“considers that the most equitable solution would be to re-run the formal consultation to show that residents are treated fairly.”* These comments have been endorsed by the other Ward Member who states that *“the process needs to be started again.”*
- 3.16 Should the recommendation from the Swale Joint Transportation Board be to progress a Residents Parking Scheme in any or all the roads consulted, funding would need to be sourced to implement the associated lining and signing following completion of a Traffic Regulation Order.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and consider formal objections to the Traffic Regulation Order, and recommend that:-
- 1) **Either** a Residents Parking Scheme is introduced **or** not progressed in School Road
 - 2) Should a Residents Parking Scheme be progressed in School Road, Plantation Road is **either** included **or** excluded from this Scheme
 - 3) A Residents Parking Scheme is not introduced in Kings Road
 - 4) **Alternatively**, the consultation should be re-run and the results reported back to the Joint Transportation Board.

5. Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Costs associated with Traffic Regulation Order, and necessary lining and signing for implementation of Scheme. Resource for possible re-consultation.
Legal and Statutory	Traffic Regulation Order to be sealed by Kent County Council.
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Annex A – Copy of Front Page of Petition from Residents of School Road
- Annex B – Copy of Consultation Documents
- Annex C – Results of Consultation
- Annex D – Summary of Overall Consultation Results

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None