

SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Meeting Date	Monday 18 th December 2017
Report Title	Petition for Residents Parking Scheme – Lavender Court, Aubretia Walk and Heather Close, Sittingbourne
Cabinet Member	Cllr Alan Horton
SMT Lead	Martyn Cassell
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell
Lead Officer	Mike Knowles (SBC)
Classification	Open

Recommendations	Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and recommend that Officers take no further action until such time as substantial changes occur to the parking arrangements in the area.
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1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a response to the petition submitted to the Swale Joint Transportation Board at their September 2017 meeting, requesting the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme in the Lavender Court, Aubretia Walk and Heather Close areas of Sittingbourne.

2. Background

- 2.1 A petition containing 37 signatures from residents of Lavender Court, Aubretia Walk and Heather Close was presented to the September 2017 JTB by Mr Lynch. The petition asked for consideration to be given to a Residents Parking Scheme in the three roads, with a waiting limit for non-permit holders of 30 minutes or a maximum of 1 hour. The petition also stated that the signatories felt that marked parking bays would be beneficial in the three roads.

3. Issue for Decision

- 3.1 A previous petition was submitted by Mr Lynch back in September 2015, containing 45 signatures from residents in the area. The petition requested the Council to investigate parking in the area with a view to introducing a Residents Parking Scheme, and Mr Lynch stated that parking in the area caused health and safety issues as access for emergency vehicles was difficult.

- 3.2 A consultation took place with residents and the results were submitted to the Swale Joint Transportation Board in March 2016. A table summarising the responses can be found in Annex A.
- 3.3 Out of the 46 responses received during the consultation, 17 supported the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme and 7 felt that such a Scheme would not help with the parking situation. As a percentage of households, 25% of residents in Aubretia Walk supported a Residents Parking Scheme, 26% in Heather Close, 36% in Lavender Court and 1% in East Street. There was no support for the introduction of a Scheme from residents of Fairview Road.
- 3.4 Based on these results, Members of the Joint Transportation Board recommended that Officers should not proceed with the introduction of a Residents Parking Scheme in the area, but due to the concerns expressed around access by emergency vehicles, Officers were requested to liaise with Kent Fire and Rescue and carry out further consultation on any planned additional restrictions.
- 3.5 Following discussions with Kent Fire and Rescue, a couple of proposals for short sections of double yellow lining in Fairview Road were put forward and consultations took place with residents of Fairview Road. The results of the consultations were reported to the Swale JTB, and the second proposal to install a section of double yellow lining around 22 metres in length was completed in August 2017. The lining was kept to a minimum to limit the impact on parking in the area, and resulted in the loss of around 3 to 4 on-street parking spaces. No other parking restrictions were considered necessary by Kent Fire and Rescue.
- 3.6 The latest petition has been submitted by residents of Lavender Court (20 signatures), Aubretia Walk (9 signatures) and Heather Close (8 signatures). In Lavender Court there are 15 properties located around the cul-de-sac, with a further 7 properties located along the footpath leading to East Street. It is estimated that there are approximately 16 on-street parking spaces available. In Aubretia Walk, the 12 properties are all located off of a footpath and the nearest on-street parking is in Fairview Road. There is insufficient width at the eastern end of Fairview Road, between Empire Court and Lavender Court, to install designated parking bays, and formalising parking in Fairview Road would result in the loss of approximately 10 on-street parking spaces. In Heather Close, 11 properties are located around the cul-de-sac with a further 8 properties located along footpaths off of the carriageway. It is estimated that there are approximately 13 on-street parking spaces available. With all three roads, even if parking was reserved for residents only, there would be insufficient spaces for all of the properties. This is presumably why many of the properties were constructed with designated garages for off-street parking.
- 3.7 The petition includes a request for individual parking bays to be marked out. It is widely agreed across all of the local authorities in Kent that marking individual parking bays reduces on-street parking capacity due to the minimum size requirements of each bay as laid down in the Traffic Signs Regulations, and formalising parking removes the flexibility that motorists can demonstrate with the parking area available. It should also be noted that unless the parking bays are

covered by some form of formal restriction covered by a Traffic Regulation Order they are not enforceable.

- 3.8 Should Members recommend that Officers repeat the consultation undertaken with residents towards the end of 2015, the consultation will need to be scheduled when resources are available, with the results to be reported back to the Joint Transportation Board at a future meeting.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report, and recommend that Officers take no further action until such time as substantial changes occur to the parking arrangements in the area.

5. Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Improving Community Safety through safer Highways.
Financial, Resource and Property	Officer resources required to undertake consultation, collate responses and prepare report for Joint Transportation Board.
Legal and Statutory	None at this stage.
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 – Summary of Responses to 2015 consultation

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None