

ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

SUMMARY REPORT

Chief Officer: Pam Wharfe, Director for Place

Subject: This report details objections received to the proposal to extend the 'Chipping Barnet 'D' Controlled Parking Zone to include the unrestricted sections of Elton Avenue Woodfall Avenue and Milton Avenue EN5.

Delegated Powers reporting requirement:

The Traffic Management Act 2004 places an obligation on authorities to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic on their road network. Authorities are required to make arrangements as they consider appropriate for planning and carrying out the action to be taken in performing the duty.

The Council as Highway Authority has the necessary legal powers to introduce or amend Traffic Management Orders through the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Background information:

In response to ongoing concerns from residents of the uncontrolled lengths of Elton Avenue, Woodfall Avenue and Milton Avenue EN5 about their difficulties in parking in their roads due to high levels of non-resident parking, the decision of Delegated Powers Report No.1929 was prepared to progress to statutory consultation proposals to extend the Chipping Barnet CPZ to relieve parking pressures on residents in the uncontrolled sections of the aforementioned roads. Also, lengths of additional waiting restrictions were proposed along Mays Lane and Underhill.

The Statutory Consultation commenced on 14th January 2013 and gave members of the public three weeks to comment on or object to the proposals. As part of the statutory consultation, notices detailing the proposals were published in the local press newspaper and the London Gazette; additionally similar notices were displayed on street throughout the area. Letters were also hand delivered to all properties within the agreed consultation effected area, Elton Avenue, Woodfall Avenue, Milton Avenue, Mays Lane and Underhill EN5, The proposals are illustrated on the attached plan.

As a result of the consultation the Council received 53 email or letter responses from members of the public relating to the proposals which included comments, objections and requests to revise the proposal. Of the 53 items of correspondence, two were e-petitions (which can be viewed at <http://petitions.barnet.gov.uk/SupportCPZ> and <http://petitions.barnet.gov.uk/ValeDrive>) and 51 were received from local residents. Of the 53 items, 12 (22.6%) were against the proposed CPZ extension while 41 (77.3%) were in favour.

The main concern and therefore the aspect of the proposal most objected to, is the perceived prohibitive cost to residents when purchasing permits and visitor vouchers and the removal of available parking space for employees of both the Vale Drive Primary Care Centre and St Catherine's County Primary RC School which are situated in Vale Drive. Of the twelve written objections received from residents, two

were from residents living outside the area proposed for the extension, concerned that if the CPZ is extended in the proposed sections Elton Avenue, Woodfall Avenue and Milton Avenue, it would remove the ability for them and other motorists to park in those roads and could possibly lead to displacement, therefore increase parking problems in other roads within the locality. The remaining ten objections were received from residents within the proposed extension area, who feel that the introduction of CPZ controls would have a negative impact on their quality of life and unfairly increase their financial burdens as they would be required to purchase resident permits and additional visitor vouchers for parking which is unaffordable and would alienate carers, family and friends.

The two e-petitions received, contained a total of 300 signatures relating to various aspects of the proposal:

(i) An e-petition containing 215 signatories not in support of the proposals from people who work for, represent or visit regularly Vale Drive Primary Care Centre and St Catherine's County RC School. Both St Catherine's and Vale Drive Health Clinic have a large number of staff who live outside walking distance, who work full time at these premises. Both buildings have small car parks, which have the space to provide parking for approximately 40% of their workforce. The remainder of employees currently use the non-restricted zones in the surrounding roads. The implications of the extended parking zones is considered by the petitioners to be a huge inconvenience to staff, it also means vehicles will be parking in Mays Lane EN5, which already currently becomes hugely congested. The Council has been informed that at St Catherine's staff rely on a large number of volunteers to help with the day-to-day running of the school including school trips, extra curricular activities and classroom assistance. The proposed restrictions will be a further deterrent to the willing and kind local community who currently assist the school with the education of Barnet children

(ii) An e-petition containing 85 signatories in support of the CPZ extension proposal was received from residents of Elton Avenue, Woodfall Avenue and Milton Avenue who are currently competing for parking space with commuters, clinic workers, school workers and college students, leaving little or no room for resident parking during the day. The detail of the petition goes on to highlight Barnet has plenty of spaces in the station car park, and Fitzjohn Avenue car park which could conceivably accommodate these commuters, leaving the residents, and their visitors, (including carers) to park near their own houses. Both the school and health centre are situated in close proximity to many bus routes, underground and train routes. The mind set of the petitioning residents is "It's is unfair for the burden to fall on a few houses, leaving residents no spaces to park at all".

Of the residents that objected to the proposals, the reasons for rejecting the proposals are for the following reasons:

High cost of permits and cost of visitor vouchers excessive

There are no parking pressures

No parking for teacher's or staff of The Vale Primary Care Centre or St Catherine's County RC Primary School

The proposed hours of operation are too short

Issues relating to football supporter parking during the football season need addressing

Loss of available kerbside space used for parking in Mays Lane.

Summary

The two main causes of concern is the perceived prohibitive cost of permits for second and third vehicles in addition to the cost of visitor vouchers and the premium placed on parking by residents unable to find available kerb space during the day due to non-residents such as commuters, town centre visitors, local employees, as well as residents of the controlled sections of the CPZ. The ideology behind the proposals is to ensure adequate parking for residents is catered for - an extension to the current CPZ would protect kerb space for residents and their visitors. It is considered that other motorists such as commuters, can be accommodated through the Council-owned and private car parks in the vicinity.

It is clear through the statutory consultation and through ongoing discussions with the community, that there is a differing of opinions between the residents of the controlled and non controlled sections of Elton, Milton and Woodfall Avenues. This division is driven by some residents who live within the current CPZ boundaries reportedly parking in the uncontrolled sections of roads in an effort to keep their personal cost down leading to a reduction in available kerb space for those living outside the CPZ.

Regarding the request for the CPZ operational hours to be extended to include weekends to protect resident parking during football matches hosted by Barnet Football Club. It is considered that the already established need for a one-hour per day, Monday to Friday CPZ has merit, for the reasons outlined elsewhere in this report. Further to this Barnet Football Club will as of May 2013 will no longer play matches at Underhill stadium thus making any request for further match day restrictions unnecessary in these roads. Therefore, it is considered that this would not be a viable option at this time

The results of the consultation do show there is a conflict between the needs of school and health centre staff and the needs of the residents. Although, the main aim is to improve the parking conditions for residents and their visitors in the uncontrolled sections of Elton, Milton and Woodfall Avenues, it is clear from the consultation that the proposal would have an effect on how the school and health centre operates.

Clearly the council want to support its local communities in which St Catherine's County RC School plays a vital role so it is also mindful of adversely affecting amenities that service the area and need support. The Council has recognised this across the board, and with this in mind the council is, under a separate process, considering establishing permits for teaching staff that will entitle those eligible staff of those qualifying schools within the borough, to park in the relevant CPZs. It is considered that should it be agreed that teachers permits be introduced, that subject to all statutory processes, they could be in place this autumn. In relation to St Catherine's County RC School, it is considered that as the roads are part controlled, if the CPZ extension is agreed the whole length of each road would have the capacity for both resident and teaching staff parking.

In terms of the staff of the health centre, no permits are envisaged; however it is considered that parking provision exists for those motorists wishing to park throughout the day, through the Council-operated and private car parks situated nearby.

Following the conclusion of the statutory consultation it is still considered that there is merit in the nature of the measures proposed for the area to improve the parking conditions for residents, however, following considerations of comments and objections received, the council is confident that the proposal would not detract from

what the council originally aimed to achieve in the area, with various concerns about non-resident parking able to be managed in other ways.

Details of the proposals consulted on are illustrated on Drawing Nos. 15953_111 attached to this report.

Ward Members

Officers wrote to Underhill Ward Councillors prior to the statutory consultation in order to ascertain their views on the proposal. No comments were received in the three weeks given.

This action authorises proceeding with:

- 1. The implementation of extension of the Chipping Barnet Zone D Controlled Parking Zone as per drawing 15953_111.**

Signed Pam Wharfe

Date: 27/06/13

Director for Place

Once completed and signed send the form in hard copy and electronically to the Governance Service