

CENTRAL AVENUE, HAYES – PETITION REQUESTING FOOTWAY PARKING EXEMPTION

Cabinet Member	Councillor Keith Burrows
Cabinet Portfolio	Planning and Transportation
Report Author	Steve Austin, Environment and Consumer Protection
Papers with report	Appendix A

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition has been received from residents of Central Avenue, Hayes asking permission to park on the footways.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	The request will be considered as part of the Council's strategy for on-street parking.
Financial Cost	There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents' and Environmental Services
Ward(s) affected	Townfield

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Notes the petition request; and
2. Approves the investigation of a Footway Parking Exemption Scheme for consultation with residents of Central Avenue and that enforcement is suspended in the interim providing parking takes place in accordance with the Council's criteria.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

It would appear it has been common practice to park on the footways of Central Avenue due to the narrow width of carriageway and this is supported by the large petition from residents of Central Avenue. The footways of Central Avenue are sufficiently wide to allow cars to park on them.

Alternative options considered

None as petitioners have made a specific request for parking on the footway.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage.

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 87 signatures has been received from residents of Central Avenue, Hayes requesting permission to park on the footway. The petitioners have signed to the following heading:

“ We the residents of Central Avenue would like to ask you to give us permission to park on the pavement. We have been parking on the pavement for years since the road calming scheme was introduced in Central Avenue. Due to the traffic calming design the road was made narrower and the footpath made wider. We are unable to park on the road as it is too narrow and a car cannot be parked on the road without causing an obstruction. In view of the situation, we ask that you give us an exemption order so that residents can park safely on the roadside of the footpath. (If a suitable solution is to have a white parking outline outside each residents property then the residents have indicated below whether they would like it)”

2. Central Avenue is a long residential road connecting Botwell Lane, Hayes with Uxbridge Road. It is predominately residential apart from leisure facilities located at its southern end. The location is indicated on Appendix A. Some years ago, a traffic calming scheme was introduced to address inappropriate speeds which reduced the width of the carriageway, and central medians were installed to prevent a straight through alignment for motorists. This increased the width of footways and it would appear from the resident’s petition it has been their custom to park with “all four wheels up” on the footway.
3. The width of the footways in Central Avenue is sufficient to allow all four wheels of cars to park along side the kerb and leave adequate room for pedestrians. Within the Council’s criteria, a Footway Parking Exemption Scheme can be considered for this road. If the Cabinet Member subsequently approves the installation of a scheme, subject to funding, it will be indicated on site with white markings and signs to show where parking is allowed. It is noted from the petition that a further indication from residents was to choose between a scheme with markings or none. It would appear two-thirds of those who signed the petition would not want the scheme to be marked on site but this would be necessary if a formal scheme is subsequently approved.
4. In view of the customary practice of residents to park on the footway and the level of support demonstrated with this petition, it is recommended the Cabinet Member approves the investigation of a formal Footway Parking Scheme but in the interim, suspend enforcement until funds become available to consider the introduction of a formal scheme.
5. It is normal practice that suspension of enforcement of footway parking is only considered where vehicles are parked in accordance with the Council’s criteria which

means it should be 15 metres from junctions and that a minimum 1.5 metres of footway must remain for the benefit and safety of pedestrians.

Financial Implications

There are no immediate costs to suspend enforcement of the footway parking regulations in Central Avenue. However, if subsequently the Council considers the introduction of a formal scheme, the estimated cost would be £1,200. A suitable budget would need to be identified to fund the scheme and the most appropriate would be an allocation from the Parking Revenue Account surplus.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

It would allow residents of Central Avenue to continue to park on the footway as they have done so previously and the investigation for the installation of a formal scheme when funding permits.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

Prior to the Council considering the installation of a formal scheme, all residents of Central Avenue will be consulted on a detailed layout.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Finance

N/A.

Legal

There are no special legal implications for this informal consultation at this stage.

Following this informal consultation, should there be a decision that further measures are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will have to be identified and considered.

In considering the consultation responses, decision makers must ensure there is a full consideration of all representations arising including those which do not accord with the officer recommendation. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.