

GREAT BENTY, WEST DRAYTON – PETITION REQUESTING THE REMOVAL OF THE GRASSED VERGES TO BE REPLACED WITH PARKING BAYS.

Cabinet Member

Councillor Keith Burrows

Cabinet Portfolio

Cabinet Member for Planning, Transportation and Recycling

Officer Contact

Danielle Watson
Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services

Papers with report

Appendix A

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report

To inform the Cabinet Member that a petition of 32 signatures has been received from residents of Great Bentley requesting the removal of the grassed verges to be replaced with parking bays.

Contribution to our plans and strategies

The request can be considered as part of the Council's Road Safety Programme.

Financial Cost

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report.

Relevant Policy Overview Committee

Residents and Environmental Services

Ward(s) affected

West Drayton

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

1. Meets and discusses with petitioners their request for removal of grass verges to be replaced with parking bays.
2. Subject to the outcome of the discussions with petitioners, asks officers to carry out a parking stress survey in Great Bentley and report back to the Cabinet Member before considering any further actions.

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

To investigate in further detail the request of petitioners.

Alternative options considered / Risk Management

These can be identified from the discussions with the petitioners.

Policy Overview Committee Comments

None at this stage

Supporting Information

1. A petition with 32 signatures has been received from residents living in Great Benty, West Drayton which represents 32% of households in this part of the road under the following heading:

'We the undersigned would like Hillingdon Borough Council to improve parking conditions in Great Benty, West Drayton, Middlesex. We would like the grass areas to be replaced with parking bays.'

2. Great Benty is a residential road within the West Drayton area. The location is shown on the plan attached as Appendix A to this report. Great Benty has a carriageway width of approximately 5.4 metres and parking is unrestricted on either side. Some residents have had their kerbs dropped to provide access to off-street parking.

3. The petitioners have requested that the grass areas are replaced with parking bays, but the precise details of the petitioners' request is unknown. The Cabinet Member will be aware that there are no specific funds set aside to convert grass verges in this way, and the costs can be considerable as any such areas have to be designed to be sufficiently strong to stand vehicle loads. The Cabinet Member will also be aware that experience has shown in other areas across the borough that loss of 'green spaces' is not always popular with the local community.

4. It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member discusses in more detail with petitioners their concerns and subject to the outcome of these discussions asks officers to conduct a parking stress survey to establish parking trends. From the information collected it is suggested that options are developed to address residents' concerns and discussed with the Cabinet Member and his Ward Member colleagues.

Financial Implications

There are none associated with the recommendations to this report. However, if suitable options are identified to address residents' concerns, funding will need to be identified.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

To allow the Cabinet Member to discuss in detail with petitioners their concerns with parking in Great Benty, West Drayton

Consultation Carried Out or Required

None at this stage

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Legal

There are no special legal implications for the proposal, which amounts to an informal consultation. A meeting with the petitioners is perfectly legitimate as part of a listening exercise, especially where consideration of the policy, factual and engineering issues are still at a formative stage. Fairness and natural justice requires that there must be no predetermination of a decision in advance of any wider non-statutory consultation.

In considering any informal 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. Accordingly, the Council must balance the concerns of the objectors with its statutory duty to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic. The decision maker must be satisfied that responses from the public are conscientiously taken into account.

Corporate Property and Construction

Corporate Property and Construction is in support of the recommendations in this report

Relevant Service Groups

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Petition received – 6th September 2011